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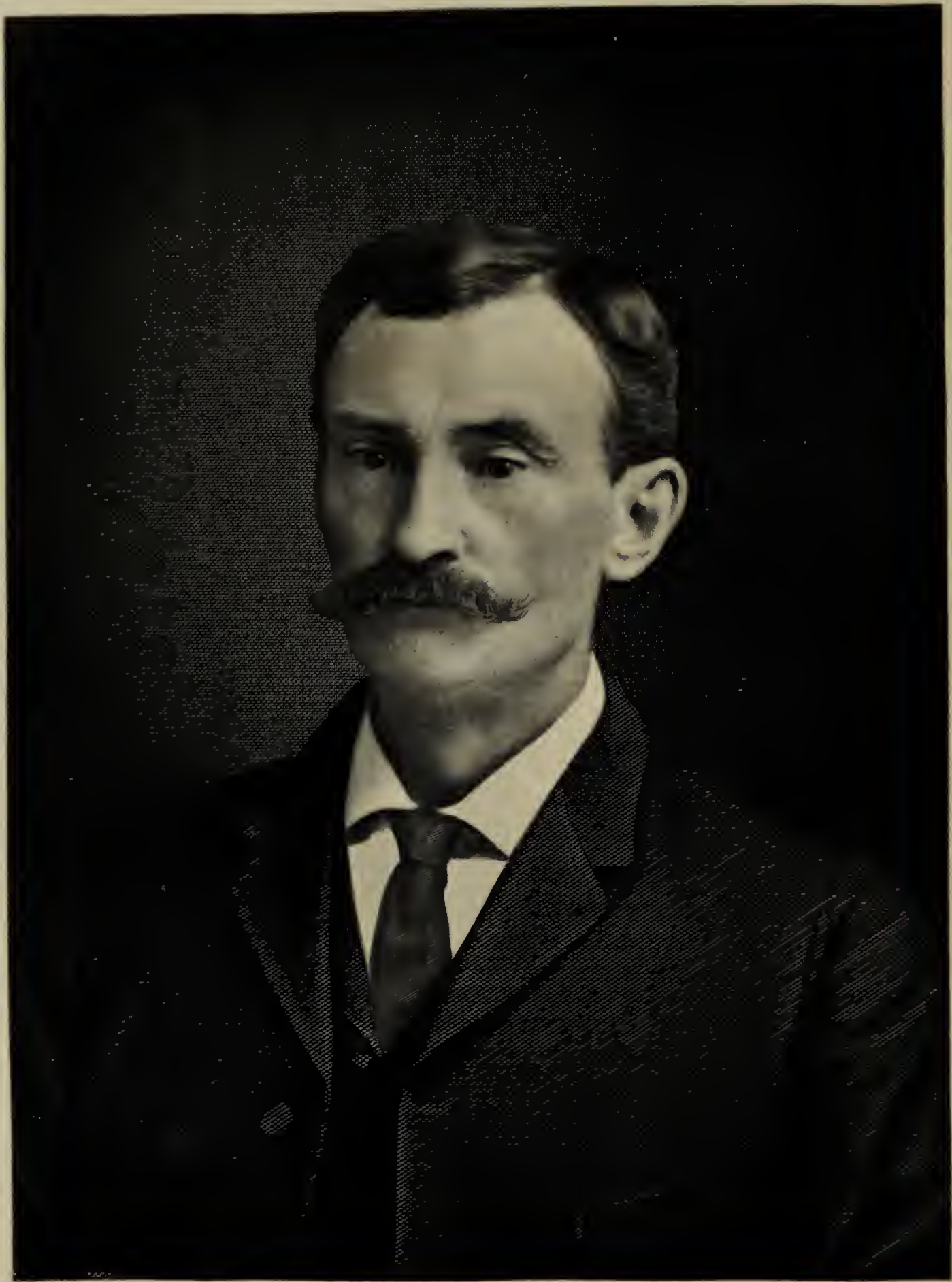


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Frank E. Crosson

HISTORY  
OF  
TAYLOR COUNTY,  
IOWA

FROM THE EARLIEST HISTORIC TIMES TO 1910

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By FRANK E. CROSSON

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ILLUSTRATED WITH PORTRAITS AND VIEWS

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Also Biographical Sketches of Some  
Prominent Citizens of the County

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Chicago  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING CO.  
1910





*Landed to Hazel Miller  
 Property of a friend.  
 Belma Hutton  
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 Creston Ia.*

PREFACE

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Within the memory of a few pioneer residents still living in Iowa, our home land was in as wild and primitive condition as are now the unexplored regions of Africa or Thibet. No civilized man had ever settled down to subdue its acres and call it home. It was inhabited by savages, without history and with meager tradition. In less than a century Iowa has been made the greatest in material productions of all the states of the great Union, as it is one of the fairest in natural beauty. The pioneers who have made the history are rapidly passing away and with them all opportunity to get the genuine first history of the state, free from error and fiction. What is true of the state is true of each county. Our own county of Taylor ranks high in political influence and is among the first in the intelligence of its people and its jealous regard for education.

Its material resources are practically unlimited, and the promises for its future grow ever brighter. To fully understand its glories and its opportunities, it is necessary to look back to their sources; we shall find that the seeds that have so auspiciously borne fruit in this present generation were sown by men, "tried and true;" men who deserve to be remembered, not merely as historic names, but as men in whose breasts beat the noblest hearts, and within whose rustic homes were to be found the very bone and sinew of the western world; men whose sterling worth and integrity have contributed very largely to the present high position of the county.

The whole history of the county is one of surpassing interest, and the more it is studied the more apparent does it become that underlying its records are certain truths which afford a clew to the causes that have contributed so powerfully to the county to its present prominence. To search out and bring to light these causes has been the earnest desire of the writer in the preparation of this work. To learn and present the truth, without favor or prejudice, has been our constant aim. The sources of information and the time to study them are not at the command of most of those who are intelligently interested in local history.

There are many unpublished facts to be rescued from the failing memories of the oldest residents, who will soon have carried their information with them to



the grave. Still other important facts are obtained from citizens best informed regarding the various present interests and institutions of the county, which should be treated in giving its history. Authenticity is always difficult in history. Much passes for history that is mere anecdote. Again, other facts come to us through the prejudice and color of personal narration. Great care has, therefore, been necessary to prevent publishing misconceptions as history. No statement of fact has been admitted without ample authority, and not even the slightest incident mentioned without the support of creditable testimony.

Attention is called to one feature of special value—the introducing of the original records of transactions directly affecting the interests of the county. Concerning the first records and the facts they teach, nothing need be said. Of this period in the county's history there has been explored for evidence every known early document, and when not mutilated, they have been presented in full.

Much time has been devoted to early settlers and settlements, and while the method of treatment may appear faulty to the reader, it must be borne in mind that the nature of the data renders any other method of presentment impossible; accuracy, rather than finish, has been the object held steadily in view.

In the compilation of this work, the oldest residents, and many others, have cheerfully volunteered their services, adding largely to the value of the results obtained. Special thanks are due the several officers of the county, the editors of the various papers, pastors of churches and church officers, and the officers of the various civic societies, who have been very obliging in placing at our command the needed statistics, and have themselves devoted time in searching the records, and afforded every opportunity in their power to perfect the chronological sequence of the data used.

Historic events cannot stand alone. They form an unbroken chain. This history of so limited a territory as a county in Iowa, has its roots not only in remote times, but in distant lands, and cannot be justly written without consulting the influence of such foreign element; nor can such a county history be understood in all its relations without a historic review of at least the state of which the county is a part; hence, we feel that in giving such an outline we have been more faithful to the main purpose of the work, while we have added an element of independent interest and value.

In conclusion we would say that the first motive for writing these pages has been a humble desire to rescue and record the essentials of the history of Taylor county.

The second motive was to re-awaken an interest among our people in the re-establishment of their lines of family ancestry, and to put such genealogies as can be secured in permanent record form for the benefit of succeeding generations.

In such a multitude of details, no doubt there may be some unimportant mistakes, despite the care exercised in the production of this work, yet we hope it will be welcomed by the inhabitants of the county, for all take a just pride in whatever calls to mind the scenes and incidents of other days. It is presented in the belief that the work done will meet with the heartiest approval of the readers; and if it awakens an earnest spirit of enterprise and emulation among the younger citizens of the county, it will be a source of pleasure and congratulation to the writer,

FRANK E. CROSSON.



# HISTORY OF TAYLOR COUNTY

## IOWA

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### HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE STATE.

Bounded on the east and west by the two greatest rivers of the North American continent, Iowa and her people are closely identified with the interests and history of the great Mississippi valley. The mighty river which flows along our eastern border, drains the most fertile agricultural region in the world. This great river was discovered by De Soto, the bold, but rapacious and unprincipled Spanish soldier, who obtained from his king the governorship of Cuba and a grant of land in eastern Florida, which Spain claimed, and in addition he was authorized to explore the country of the "far west."

From reports received from the Ponce de Leon expedition, the people of Spain had long thought that somewhere in the interior of the unexplored land were rich mines of gold and silver, so when it became known that De Soto was fitting out an expedition to explore and conquer this supposedly rich region, men of wealth, nobles of high rank and ambitious cavaliers flocked to his standard, and on the 12th of May, 1539, gaily as a pleasure party, little dreaming of the fate that awaited them, the expedition of nearly one thousand, five hundred men embarked from Havana. We will not attempt to trace them in their wanderings through the vast swamps and dense forests of what is now the states of Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi; plundering and destroying the Indians, leaving a bloody trail behind them. But this constant fighting, sickness and exposure, decimated their ranks, so that when they reached the banks of the mighty Mississippi in April, 1541, after nearly two years of wandering, and almost constant fighting, they were but a remnant of the grand expedition that had sailed from Havana in May, 1539.

So far their search for gold had been in vain and with the hope of still finding the precious metal, they crossed the river and pushed on farther west. Finally, disheartened, and despairing of finding gold, they retraced their steps to the great river they had discovered. Here the indomitable De Soto resolved to plant a colony and at once set about making vessels to send to Cuba for supplies and reinforcements, but before the expedition was ready to start De Soto was stricken with fever from which he died, and his companions, to conceal his death from the Indians, who feared him, took his body at night and sunk it in the great river

he had discovered. On the 2d of July, 1543, having completed their vessels, his surviving comrades embarked and sailed down the Mississippi to its mouth, being the first white men to sail upon its placid waters.

The next white men to see the Mississippi were some French gold seekers from a colony in Florida, but they attempted no settlement in the region of the river.

More than one hundred and thirty years now elapsed after the discovery of the river by De Soto, before an effort was made by any white man to explore the valley. In the meantime the French had been gradually extending a chain of settlements along the St. Lawrence river and westward around the great lakes. The pioneers in these westward movements, were Jesuit priests, who led the way into remote regions, among the most war-like tribes of Indians. These priests learned from Indians they met of a great river in the "far west," called by them, Mis-sis-se-pe or "Great River." The river was described as flowing through dense forests and vast meadows covered with tall grass. The Indian name Mis-sis- signified meadow and the word se-pe- means river, hence Mis-sis-se-pe, as the early French writers spelled it, signifies "River of the Meadows."

Father Marquette, a French Jesuit missionary, among the Huron Indians, determined to explore the far west to the great river, and in 1673, in company with Joliet, a trader of Quebec, and five other Frenchmen, he started on the voyage of exploration. The party sailed on Green bay to the mouth of Fox river, thence up that stream some distance, where they found a village of Miami and Kickapoo Indians, where they engaged guides to pilot them to the Wisconsin river. Floating down the Wisconsin many days, they finally emerged into the great river they sought. It was a majestic stream at this point, the western shore of which arose in high abrupt bluffs, covered with forests.

It was on the 17th day of June, 1673, when they looked out upon the rugged shores of the Iowa of the future. They were the discoverers, as no white man had ever before seen the upper Mississippi river and its shores. The point first seen was a few miles below McGregor, in the present county of Clayton. The party floated down the river, for many days, or until June 25, when they landed. The exact location of the landing is not known, but from the brief description given, writers agree that it must have been near where Montrose now stands in Lee county.

After a few days' visit with the Indians of the vicinity, they continued their voyage down the river as far as the mouth of the Arkansas. From Indians here they learned that the great river upon which they had sailed more than eleven hundred miles, emptied into the Gulf of Mexico, and as the survivors of the ill-fated De Soto expedition had sailed from here to its mouth, the whole course of the river from Wisconsin to the gulf had been explored.

Hennepin next explored the river from the mouth of the Illinois up as far as the Falls of St. Anthony in 1680. La Salle, another French explorer, finished the exploration of the lower Mississippi to its mouth in 1682.

In 1702 Lesuer with a party ascended the Mississippi, sailing along the entire eastern border of Iowa, and up the St. Peters river, where he erected a fort and took formal possession of the vast region now embraced in the states of Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas.



After the war between England and France, which prevailed from 1756 to 1763, France ceded to England all of her possessions in America, east of the Mississippi, except a portion of Louisiana, but Iowa still remained a French possession. It is one portion of the United States which never passed under the government of England. Soon after the close of the seven years' war, between England and France, the king of the latter country, by secret treaty, ceded all of the remainder of the French possessions in America, to Spain, in 1763, and Iowa passed under the dominion of the Spanish government. During the eighty years that the territory embraced in Iowa belonged to France, no permanent settlement had been made. French hunters and trappers had explored its rivers in search of furs and game, and had given names to some of them, but no other mark of their occupation remained. In 1788 the first white man settled within the present limits of the state of Iowa. Julien Dubuque, the first white settler, was a Frenchman, a native of Canada, and had been a resident of Prairie du Chien. Dubuque purchased from the Fox Indians the right to occupy the tract of land covering the site of the present city of Dubuque. In 1796 the Spanish governor confirmed the grant and thus established the title in a civilized way. Dubuque married an Indian squaw, and with white miners operated the lead mines in the vicinity until his death in 1810.

In 1795 Girard, a Frenchman, obtained a grant of a tract of land in what is now Clayton county, which he occupied with a few other settlers.

Louis Honore Tesson obtained a grant in what is now Lee county in 1799. It will be seen that there were really no settlements of importance in this territory until it came under the control of the United States.

In our treaty with Great Britain at the close of the Revolutionary war, 1783, the United States came into possession of all British territory east of the Mississippi river. Spanish control and authority prevailed in all the vast domain west of the Mississippi until 1800, when it was ceded by Spain back to France, thus coming under the power of Napoleon, who was at war with almost all Europe.

Napoleon, following the plan of La Salle, proposed to found a new France in America, but in 1803, needing money badly, and fearing that the territory might fall into the hands of his great enemy, England, he sold the entire territory to the United States for fifteen million dollars.

March 20, 1804, congress provided that upper Louisiana, that part of the whole province north of the 33d parallel, consisting of what is now Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa and southern Minnesota, should be organized into a court district and attached to the territory of Indiana for governmental purposes. From this comes the term "District of Louisiana," that occurs in the early history of all this part of the United States.

July 4, 1805, Iowa was included as a part of the territory of Louisiana with the capital at New Orleans.

In 1807, for a brief period, Iowa was attached to the territory of Illinois, for judicial purposes.

June 4, 1812, it was embraced in what was then organized as the territory of Missouri. July, 1820, Missouri became a state, and Iowa, with other territory, was detached and forgotten, and remained a country without a government, either political or judicial, until June 28, 1834, when the abuses of outlawry and crime



became so prominent and so serious, that as a means of redress and correction, it was included in the territory of Michigan. July 3, 1836, Iowa became a part of the newly organized territory of Wisconsin, composed of the present states of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and the eastern part of North and South Dakota.

July 12, 1838, the territory of Iowa was organized, including, also, the present state of Minnesota and parts of North and South Dakota.

Application for admission as a state was refused by congress until December 28, 1846, when Iowa became a state. The population of the state at this time was one hundred and two thousand, three hundred and eighty-eight.

Iowa had three territorial governors: Robert Lucas, appointed by President Van Buren in 1838; John Chambers, appointed by President Harrison in 1840, who in turn was removed by President Polk in 1845, and James Clark, appointed, who served until a successor was elected in 1846. After the admission of the territory as a state the first governor elected was Ansel Briggs, a democrat.

The state continued solidly democratic until 1854, since which the republicans have controlled the state, with the exception of 1889, when Horace Boies, the democratic nominee for governor, was elected.

For several years after achieving statehood the constitution was a bone of contention. Finally, in 1857, the third constitutional convention, by changes and amendments, brought out a constitution, which has stood the test down to the present time. Some of the changes are worthy of note, among them was changing the period of taking the state census to every ten years, instead of every two years. Changing the selection of supreme court judges from the general assembly to the people at the regular election.

It changed the length of the term of governor from four years to two, and located the permanent seat of state government at Des Moines, and the State University at Iowa City. The boundaries were described as follows:

Beginning in the middle of the main channel of the Mississippi river, at a point due east of the middle of the mouth of the main channel of the Des Moines river; thence up the middle of the main channel of the said Des Moines river, to a point on said river where the northern boundary line of the state of Missouri—as established by the constitution of that state, adopted June 12, 1820—crosses the said middle of the main channel of the said Des Moines river; thence westwardly along the said northern boundary line of the state of Missouri, as established at the time aforesaid, until an extension of said line intersects the middle of the main channel of the Missouri river, thence up the middle of the main channel of the said Missouri river to a point opposite the middle of the main channel of the Big Sioux river, according to Nicolett's map; thence up the main channel of the said Big Sioux river according to the said map, until it is intersected by the parallel of forty-three degrees and thirty minutes north latitude; thence east along said parallel of forty-three degrees and thirty minutes, until said parallel intersects the middle of the main channel of the Mississippi river, thence down the middle of the main channel of the said Mississippi river to the place of beginning.

The constitution was submitted to the people and was adopted by popular vote, August 3, 1857.

It may be of interest to mention the various capital cities the state has had. When the bill providing for the creation of Iowa territory had passed both

branches of congress and had been approved by the president and the territorial officers had been appointed, the territorial governor, Robert Lucas, selected Burlington as the capital of the new territory. The territorial legislature elected met at Burlington, November 12, 1838, and among other acts appointed commissioners to relocate the capital, and they chose a site on the Iowa river in Johnson county, where they platted a town and named it Iowa City, which was the capital city, until the selection of Des Moines as the permanent seat of government, by the convention of 1857.

#### ORIGINAL INHABITANTS.

We have spoken but indirectly of the original inhabitants, the Indians. When we speak of the Indians as the original inhabitants, we mean that they were the only people here when the territory was first discovered by white men, and they are the first inhabitants so far as we are able to ascertain by either history or tradition.

That a race of people inhabited this state before the advent of the Indian, we have ample evidence in the numerous mounds along the Des Moines river and in other parts of the state. There is no doubt but that the mythical people, the mound builders, at one time possessed this soil. But our government had to deal with the Indians, who, according to the laws and usages of nations were the owners, because they were in actual possession. At the coming of the white man, the Indians found here, were known in history by the tribal names of Sioux, Sac, Fox and Iowa. There were other minor tribes but these were the strongest, the most contentious over their rights of ownership, and therefore in history the best known.

By repeated treaties the United States extinguished their titles to the lands and removed them further west, until in 1905, there were but three hundred and forty-six Indians remaining in the state.

The sum total paid the Indians for the various cessions was two million, eight hundred and seventy-seven thousand, five hundred and forty-seven dollars, a little more than eight cents per acre.

While but a few Indians remain with us, the more prominent of the chiefs of the several tribes have left their names on the map of the state, as Black Hawk, Keokuk, Tama, Mahaska, Waukon, Osceola, Decorah, Winneshiek, Wapello, Appanoose, and Poweshiek.

The tribal names are represented by Sioux, Winnebago, Sac, Iowa, Fox, Osage, Pottawattamie, Cherokee and Chickasaw. Other names derived from the Indians are: Anamosa, Monona, Okoboji, Pocahontas, Oskaloosa, and Ottumwa.

#### DISPOSITION OF IOWA LAND FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES.

The area of Iowa, according to latest official reports is fifty-five thousand, four hundred and seventy-five square miles or thirty-five million, five hundred and four thousand acres. From time to time disposition has been made of portions of this for the public good. Altogether there has been set aside for the support of the public schools, one million, five hundred and thirty-nine thousand, two



hundred and fourteen acres. For the State University eighty-nine thousand, four hundred and thirty-seven acres. For the State Agricultural College two hundred and twenty-two thousand, one hundred and twenty-three acres. For the purpose of draining swamp lands, improving rivers, etc., one million, one hundred and ninety-two thousand and forty-four acres, and for railroads, four million, eight hundred and eighty-one thousand and thirty-six acres, making a total of seven million, nine hundred and twenty-three thousand, eight hundred and fifty-eight acres, of which it will be seen the railroads got the lion's share, but this liberality on the part of the state is undoubtedly responsible for the rapid progress Iowa has made in material growth, in population, and in all that contributes to greatness in statehood.

#### SIXTY-TWO YEARS A STATE.

It was sixty-two years last December since Iowa was admitted as a state in the union. At the time of admission the population was one hundred and two thousand, three hundred and eighty-eight. The 1905 census gives the population for that year, two million, two hundred and ten thousand and fifty. During this sixty-two years more than twenty-five million acres of wild prairie land has been brought under cultivation. From this land has been made two hundred and nine thousand, one hundred and sixty-three farms valued at one billion, five hundred and fifty-two million, one hundred and six thousand, four hundred and forty-nine dollars. The buildings on these farms are valued at three hundred and three million, seven hundred and fifty thousand, nine hundred and seventy-five dollars. Provision for the education of children has been carefully looked after by the owners of these farms.

The little white school house is in evidence everywhere, with an attendance of five hundred and twenty-nine thousand, six hundred and forty-four. Unexceptional facilities for higher education are found in the State University, the State Normal School, the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, and the numerous private colleges and academies over the state.

The last census disclosed that the total number of illiterates of school age or over, was twenty-eight thousand, nine hundred and seventy-seven or one and one-half per cent and the majority of illiterate persons are forty-five years of age or over.

Further illustrating the high standard of educational and moral sentiment, are the churches, whose spires may be seen in every city and village, and in many rural communities.

The church buildings of the state number three thousand, six hundred and nine, valued at twenty million, nine hundred and eighteen thousand, nine hundred and sixty dollars, with two hundred and eleven congregations worshipping in halls and other places. There are one thousand, nine hundred and sixty-six parsonages, valued at three million, nine hundred and three thousand, six hundred and thirty-nine dollars, which makes the total value of church property in the state, twenty-four million, eight hundred and twenty-two thousand, five hundred and ninety-nine dollars. The church membership is given as five hun-

dred and eighty-one thousand, eight hundred and forty. It is interesting to note the rapid growth of the state in material wealth.

Iowa's fertile soil produces in bewildering abundance the most important of the food products.

From the latest report at hand the value of the corn crop, alone, was one hundred and seventeen million, six hundred and eighty thousand and ninety-seven dollars and the total valuation of corn, wheat, oats, barley, rye and buckwheat was one hundred ninety-two millions, five hundred ninety-nine thousand, seven hundred and forty-two dollars. Timothy, clover, alfalfa, and other forage plants, twenty-eight million, six hundred seventy-three thousand, nine hundred dollars. Fruits, five million, three hundred fifty-five thousand, five hundred and fifty-six dollars. Timothy, clover and other seeds, seven million, three hundred fifty-seven thousand, three hundred and forty-four dollars. The value of the cattle of the state is given at ninety-one million, seventeen thousand, seven hundred and fifty-two dollars. Horses and mules, eighty-two million, eight hundred and seven thousand, four hundred and sixty-three dollars. Swine, thirty-four million, four hundred sixty-four thousand, one hundred and fifty-three dollars. Sheep, one million, nine hundred and eighty-nine thousand, three hundred and sixty-four dollars. Goats, seventy-five thousand, nine hundred and ninety-eight dollars and the value of wool three hundred thirteen thousand, nine hundred and eighty dollars. Cattle, horses, sheep and swine entitled to registry are valued at nearly nine million dollars. Fowls are valued at eight million, eighty-three thousand, one hundred and eighty-four dollars. Eggs, ten million, seven hundred and ninety-four thousand, four hundred and ninety-three dollars. Dairy products, thirty million, six hundred and eighty-seven thousand, two hundred and seventy-four dollars, and vegetables, three million, four hundred and forty-five thousand dollars.

This enormous production means a large surplus to sell or exchange for other necessities not produced here, hence the increase in transportation facilities has been equally rapid.

When Iowa was admitted into the union there was no railroad in the state, and none until ten years later. In the fall of 1852 surveys were made for what was later known as the Mississippi & Missouri railroad. The line was to operate between Davenport and Council Bluffs. By 1856 the line was completed to Iowa City, and shortly extended southward from Davenport to Muscatine. By 1861 but three hundred and thirty-one miles of road had been built. The four trunk lines, which were later to span the state, had, however, been laid out and were already reaching westward. The Dubuque & Sioux City railroad had reached Cedar Falls, in Black Hawk county. The Chicago, Iowa & Nebraska, now the Chicago & North-Western, was building in Tama county. The Mississippi and Missouri River road had halted at Iowa City. The Burlington & Missouri River road had reached Ottumwa, and the Des Moines Valley road extended from Keokuk to Ottumwa. With 1862 the building era of Iowa roads begins. Rumors of a road to the Pacific had spread and each line was anxious to reach the Missouri first and form a junction with the westerly road. The Mississippi & Missouri extended its line to Grinnell; the Cedar Rapids & Missouri River to State Center, and the Des Moines Valley pushed northward to Mahaska county.



The period of 1864-66 witnessed the extension of the Cedar Rapids & Missouri half way across the state and saw it bend southward almost through Harrison county to reach Council Bluffs, the expected Pacific terminal. The Mississippi & Missouri River road built a short extension to Newton, but owing to financial difficulties, was taken over by the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, which hurried its completion, and by 1869 was ready to operate trains across the state. The same year the Burlington & Missouri River road reached the Missouri river, but they were preceded by the Cedar Rapids & Missouri River road almost a year.

At the close of the period 1870 the four trunk lines across the state were completed and the MacGregor & Western, now the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, had reached Algona. The work of the following decade was to complete this system and, by running roads north and south, make possible the development of the territory between the east and west lines. At least three lines from the northern to the southern boundaries of the state were built: the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern, with its southern connections; the Iowa Central; and a third, made up of the Des Moines Valley, the Des Moines & Minnesota and the Minnesota & St. Louis. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul was in the northeast and numerous other lines in the south. The northwestern portion of the state, however, remained undeveloped and but one-half of the present mileage had been constructed.

The period 1880 to 1904 is one of great development. The mileage of the state nearly doubles; interior commercial centers, as Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Oskaloosa, Fort Dodge and Waterloo, become more prominent, and branch roads in all directions make the transportation system of the state one of the best. The appended table gives the number of miles of road in the state from 1855 to 1905.

Year.	No. of Miles.	Year.	No. of Miles.	Year.	No. of Miles.
1855.....	.....	1872.....	3,095	1889.....	8,293
1856.....	123	1873.....	3,643	1890.....	8,260
1857.....	130	1874.....	3,728	1891.....	8,377
1858.....	227	1875.....	3,765	1892.....	8,403
1859.....	255	1876.....	3,823	1893.....	8,479
1860.....	331	1877.....	3,938	1894.....	8,478
1861.....	393	1878.....	4,075	1895.....	8,481
1862.....	626	1879.....	4,324	1896.....	8,497
1863.....	653	1880.....	5,269	1897.....	8,481
1864.....	727	1881.....	5,269	1898.....	8,474
1865.....	847	1882.....	5,732	1899.....	8,518
1866.....	1,060	1883.....	6,792	1900.....	9,236
1867.....	1,228	1884.....	7,106	1901.....	9,337
1868.....	1,448	1885.....	7,496	1902.....	9,416
1869.....	2,081	1886.....	7,490	1903.....	9,275
1870.....	2,081	1887.....	7,912	1904.....	9,800
1871.....	2,684	1888.....	8,291	1905.....	9,800

Every one of its ninety-nine counties has a railroad, so that no farm is far from some line of transportation. In addition to the statistics given elsewhere

on schools and churches, further proofs of steady progress along right lines is shown in the one thousand or more newspapers and periodicals, and the one hundred and fifty-two public libraries which have grown up in the state.

When the war of the rebellion broke out, Iowa sent more than seventy-eight thousand of her stalwart sons to swell the ranks of the Union army, of which eleven thousand perished in that terrible war.

Our state furnished officers competent to command armies and military departments. It has given the nation some of its most illustrious statesmen, judges and soldiers.

#### ORGANIZATION OF IOWA COUNTIES.

Before speaking of the organization of Taylor county, it will be of interest to speak briefly of the organization of Iowa counties from the beginning. The legislative assembly of Michigan territory, provided by legislation in 1834, for the creation of counties within the limits of the territory which later became the state of Iowa, as follows:

An act to lay off and organize counties west of the Mississippi river.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the legislative council of the territory of Michigan, that all that district of country which was attached to the territory of Michigan by an act of congress entitled, "An act to attach the territory of the United States west of the Mississippi river, and north of the state of Missouri, to the territory of Michigan, and to which the Indian title has been extinguished, which is north of a line to be drawn due west, from the lower end of Rock Island to the Missouri river, shall constitute a county and be called Dubuque; said county shall constitute a township which shall be called Julien, and the seat of justice shall be at the village of Dubuque.

Section 2. All that part of the district aforesaid, which was attached to the territory of Michigan situated south of said line to be drawn due west of the lower end of Rock Island, shall constitute a county and be called Demoine; said county shall constitute a township and be called Flint Hills; the seat of justice shall be at such place therein as shall be designated by the judge of the county court of said county.

Section 4 of the act provided "That all laws now in force in the county of Iowa, not locally inapplicable, shall be and are hereby extended to the counties of Dubuque and Demoine, and shall be in force therein."

At that time the Indian title to the lands in the region lying between the north line of Missouri and the mouth of the upper Iowa river, and fifty miles to the west of the Mississippi river, had been extinguished. Thus the two new counties, Dubuque and Demoine, embraced the entire tract known as the "Black Hawk purchase," and were the only counties created by the legislative assembly of Michigan, while this region was a part of that territory.

Later, while a part of Wisconsin territory, twenty-two counties were created, and when Iowa territory was created, twenty-three other counties were added. After it became a state, the boundaries were enlarged, divisions made, until now the total number of Iowa counties is ninety-nine.



## TAYLOR COUNTY.

## SURVEYING THE COUNTY.

With regard to the origin of the division of individual states into county and township organizations, which in an important measure should have the power and opportunity of transacting their own business and governing themselves, under the approval and subject to the state and general government, of which they each formed a part, we quote from Elija M. Haynes, author of Township Organizations. The county system originated with Virginia, whose early settlers became large landed proprietors, aristocratic in feeling, living apart in almost baronial magnificence on their own estates, and owning the laboring part of the population.

The county organization, when a few influential men managed the whole business of the community, retaining their places almost at their pleasure, responsible only in name, and permitted to conduct the county concerns as their ideas or wishes might direct, was in consonance with their recollections and traditions of the landed aristocracy of England, in descent from whom the Virginia gentlemen felt so much pride.

The county system, inaugurated by Virginia, spread to all of the southern states, and even to some states of the north.

As population increased, much dissatisfaction arose over the inefficient county system. It was seen that equal and exact justice to all parts of the county could not be secured. The heavily populated districts would always control the elections and sparsely settled districts would be unable to obtain representation. Massachusetts is credited with originating the township system of government, and other states followed in course of time, and finally the general government, in providing for an intelligent system of surveys, fixed the limits of what is now called congressional townships.

An act of congress, May 20, 1785, provided for the survey of public lands, divisions of six miles square to constitute townships, the ranges of townships to be numbered from the Pennsylvania boundary, west, and the numbering of the townships themselves to be from a point on the Ohio river, due north of the western termination of the southern boundary line of Pennsylvania, a township to include thirty-six sections, each one mile square. Legislation since has made some changes, but the system is practically the same at the present time.

More than sixty years ago, surveyors for the first time, traversed the territory now known as Taylor county.

Contracts were made between the government and the surveyor for a stipulated price per mile, all lines counted by running measure. The lines around the sections were not always straight lines, as may be seen in several localities in the county, much difficulty has been experienced in locating corners established by this first survey, owing to the fact, that frequently a stake, or mound of earth instead of a stone, was used for marking a corner.

The stakes were quite frequently burned by prairie fires or rotted away, while in time the earth mound could not be distinguished from the numerous mounds made by the gophers.





GROUP OF PIONEER MOTHERS



GROUP OF PIONEER FATHERS







## LOCATING AND NAMING THE COUNTY.

The act defining Taylor county passed the third general assembly and received the signature of the governor of the state in January, 1851. The county is situated in the Southernmost tier, sixty miles east of the Missouri river, and is the third in order eastward. It is a little less than twenty-four miles square, and contains an area of some three hundred and forty-three thousand, six hundred and eighty acres, or about five hundred and thirty-seven square miles. It has the nominal sixteen congressional township, but owing to the correction line, which passes through this county, they are not all full townships. The townships are Nodaway, Holt, Grove, Platte, Dallas, Washington, Marshall, Grant, Mason, Benton, Clayton, Gay, Polk, Ross, Jackson and Jefferson. The four last named constituting the southern tier, and hence facing the State of Missouri, which bounds the county on the south. On the west, it is bounded by Page county, on the north by Adams and on the east by Ringgold. The south boundary line is not a due east and west line, but is slightly oblique, hence this tends to diminish the area of the county. The correction line passes through the county in such a manner that Gay and Clayton townships are the smallest two, and Benton and Mason next to them in size. Gay is five sections by six, Clayton five sections by five and one-quarter, Benton and Mason, each, six by five and one-quarter. The county is so named in honor of Gen. Zachary Taylor, who became famous in the war with Mexico.

Gen. Taylor was a native of Virginia and was born in 1784, shortly after the nation, in which he was to form so conspicuous a part, had gained a name and place among the empires of the earth. He was commissioned a lieutenant by Pres. Jefferson in 1808 and had spent forty years in the military service of his country, when he was chosen by the whigs to lead them in the contest for the presidency in 1848. He was without political experience, but was a man of nerve and stainless character, of great firmness, a sincere patriot and possessed of strong, good sense. He was elected over Lewis Cass of Michigan, the democratic nominee, and Martin Van Buren of New York, the candidate of the anti-slavery or free soil party. His inauguration occurred on Monday, March 5, 1849, since the 4th of March fell on Sunday in that year.

His success in the war with Mexico had made him both famous and popular, following which, his nomination and election to the highest office in the gift of the people, placed him very prominently before the American public. July 9, 1850, the chief magistrate died, amid the grief of the whole country, and after an occupancy of the presidential chair but sixteen months.

When therefore the General Assembly of Iowa came to determine the limits of this county, it was decided that it should bear the name of the chief man of the nation. Thus the name of the great soldier was destined to be honored again in war, by heroes from the county which bore it.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY.

After the act, defining Taylor county passed the general assembly, the next step was the organization of the county and Elisha Parker was appointed organizing sheriff. Before entering upon the duties of this office, it was necessary that

he be qualified in due legal form. The nearest point where this important preliminary could be compassed was Clarinda, in Page county, and thither Mr. Parker went. Notices to the resident voters were properly posted in the three voting precincts that had been indicated. The precincts were there named for the three original townships in the county, namely, Jackson, Benton and Polk, though none but Jackson then existed as a township. At the election which ensued only fifty-three votes were cast, showing the population of the county to be small at the time. Upon these fifty-three men did the onus of organization and the expenses incident thereto fall.

The election was held in February, and resulted in the election of Jacob Ross, Levi L. Hayden and Daniel Smith, as county commissioners; Clerk, John Hayden; Probate Judge, Hampton Bennington; Recorder and Treasurer, John Hayden; Sheriff, James R. Campbell; Inspector of Weights and Measures, Jacob Miller; Justices of the Peace, John W. Miller and Saymore Coffman; and Constable, Preston B. McGuire.

The organization was not perfected, of course, until these persons were duly qualified.

On February 26, 1851 the first commissioners' court was held at the residence of Judge Jacob Ross, a special session by the way, and it seems that the only business transacted at this session was the canvass of the election returns, and the approval of the bond of the officers elect, which being performed, they adjourned to meet again in regular session, at the home of Judge Ross, on the first Monday in April, 1851.

This second session occurred on April 7, and the business of the session consisted in appointing or commissioning William Warmly a justice of the peace; and Preston B. McGuire, constable of Polk township; John W. Miller, justice of the peace; and James K. Miller, constable of Benton township.

The reasons for these appointments was that the above named precincts had been organized as townships after the election in January. After the dispatch of this business, the commissioners' court adjourned to meet at the home of Judge Ross, the first Monday in July, 1851. At this third session of the county court, the first real business was transacted, the previous sessions had been occupied with attending to the formalities of organization. The first act of the board at this third session, was to pay Sheriff James B. Campbell, who from the record appears to have borne the additional honor of being assessor also, "One dollar per day, time employed in assessing, to which he was four days in assessing Taylor county, four dollars."

From the table given later on, it may be seen that the entire tax amounted to but sixty-two dollars and thirty-seven cents and while the task of assessing consumed but four days, and the compensation of the assessor but four dollars, he received for the work, nearly one fifteenth of the whole amount assessed.

The court next took up for consideration the charges of Elisha Parker for his services in organizing the county. His bill filed with the board, contained the following items:

"Traveling to and from Page county to be qualified as organizing sheriff; twenty-five miles at four cents per mile, two dollars; writing and posting nine advertisements for three precincts, three dollars, twelve and one-half cents;



filing returns of election, fifty cents; certificates for three county commissioners, seventy-five cents; certificates for clerk district court, twenty-five cents; certificates for sheriff, twenty-five cents; certificates for recorder, twenty-five cents, and so on through the list of officers, the total sum claimed and allowed amounting to nine dollars and eighty-seven and one-half cents.

The board at this session fixed the rates of taxation as follows: "poll tax, fifty cents on each tythe; for state purposes, two mills to the dollar; county purposes, three mills to the dollar; school fund, half mill to the dollar." It will be seen that the tax rate for all purposes was five and one-half mills and the amount realized on the taxable property of the county was thirty-five dollars and eighty-seven cents, which with the poll tax on fifty-three "tythes" at fifty cents each, amounting to twenty-six dollars and fifty cents, brings the amount received from all sources up to sixty-two dollars and thirty-seven cents.

To the reader, born since these old pioneer days, the appended table will be of interest. This is, as the record shows, the complete tax list, amounts taxed and sums realized on the first assessment ever made in the county. Property assessed by James B. Campbell, 1851.

Name	Amt. of Prop.	Tax			
Levi L. Hayden	\$ 49	\$ .77	Nancy Cobble	8	.05
Joshua Hudson	70	.88	Price Summers	45	.75
Preston B. McGuire	78	.93	Elizabeth Miller	25	.14
Hampton Pennington	89	.99	William Louis	70	.89
John W. Miller	22	.62	Jacob Miller	236	1.79
William M. Ross	152	1.34	John Hayden	61	.83
James D. Ross	79	.93	Jacob Ross	221	1.71
James H. Burge	82	.95	John Dougherty	119	1.15
James K. Miller	42	.73	Isaac Dowis	424	2.83
Isaac Guyll	245	1.85	Nancy Taber	105	.57
Matthew Hindman	108	1.09	James Mason	97	1.03
Daniel Smith	168	1.42	Lucinda Vice	69	.38
Edward S. Goilsey	97.75	1.05	James Ross	161	1.38
Wm. Edmonson	50	.77	Martha Cobble	9	.05
Matthew Smith	86	.97	Stephen H. Parker	317	2.24
Henry Foster	72	.90	Jesse Guyll	60	.83
Marshall Hubble	65	.86	Eden Hawk	47	.76
James Gartside	26	.64	William Wilson	116	1.14
Robert Foster	133	1.23	George Dial	111	1.12
Margaret Foster	57	.31	Thomas Parker	—	.50
Elisha Parker	65.50	.86	Saymore Coffman	171	1.44
Henry H. Smith	67	.87	Nathaniel H. Towner	90	1.00
Stephen Parker	79	.93	Thomas Holland	83	.95
James Ross, Jr.	45	.75	Russell L. Thompson	173	1.45
Priscilla Dailey	20	.11	Elias Bridgwater	204	1.62
Joseph Roach	55	.80	William B. Warmly	233	1.78
Benjamin Ravner	161	1.32	James B. Campbell	389	2.64
Frederick Gamel	159	1.32	Francis H. Farley	177	1.47
William Roach	150	1.32	James Holland	50	.77
			Salina Gamell	66	.36



Nancy Reed . . . . .	49	.77	Elizabeth Rickard . . . . .	16	.09
Benjamin Tanner . . . . .	29	.66	John Lowe . . . . .	48	.26
Total assessed valuation . . . . .					\$6,522.00
State tax, two mills to the dollar . . . . .					13.044
County tax, three mills to the dollar . . . . .					19.566
School tax, one-half mill to the dollar . . . . .					3.261
Poll tax, fifty cents each tythe . . . . .					26.50
Total amount . . . . .					\$ 62.371

We the board of county commissioners, have, as accurately as we could, made out this list of taxable property, with the number of tythes, which we direct the assessors of Taylor county to collect as soon as practicable.

Given under our hands this fifth day of August, A. D., 1851.

Levi L. Hayden [L. S].  
Daniel Smith [L. S].  
Jacob Ross [L. S].

The above list discloses some interesting facts. Only fifty-eight years ago the tax payers of this county numbered sixty-three tax payers in the county, with taxable property valued at six thousand, five hundred and twenty-two dollars. Thirteen dollars and four cents was paid the state as the price of the first year's existence as an independent body politic in the state of Iowa, and the school tax amounted to the magnificent sum of three dollars and twenty-six cents. Isaac Dowis paid taxes on property valued at four hundred and twenty-four dollars, and according to the record was at that time the richest man in the county, while Nancy Cobble paid taxes on the smallest valuation, eight dollars.

August 4, 1851, the first regular election was held, and the following persons were elected: Sheriff, James B. Campbell; Recorder and Treasurer, James K. Miller; Inspector of Weights and Measures, Jacob Miller; District and County Clerk, John Hayden. With this election the county was finally organized.

At a special session of the county board, August 18, 1851, the first census roll was received and contained the following entries: males over twenty-one sixty-nine; females over twenty-one, seventy; whole number of males, one hundred and thirty-four; whole number of females, one hundred and twenty; total population, three hundred and ninety-three. The county had now launched upon individual existence as a part of the commonwealth of Iowa, and assumed the importance such a position warranted.

From that time to the present, progress has been marked, though it may seem somewhat slow. There has been a gradual and permanent growth in material wealth, and all that leads to the highest type of refined civilization.

#### ORGANIZATION OF TOWNSHIPS.

It has been stated elsewhere that at the time of the organization of the county it contained but one township, Jackson, which comprised its whole area, there-

fore the organization of Jackson township dates from the organization of the county in February, 1851.

It has also been previously mentioned that at the second term of the county court, April 7, 1851, the county was divided into three townships, one retaining the name of Jackson, the other two receiving the names of Polk and Benton, respectively.

The record of this transaction reveals nothing as to the area of these townships, or where their boundaries were drawn. Nothing of this important transaction is shown except the appointment of the necessary officials. Such was the condition of matters until the July term of 1854, when the following entry appears: At the July term of the county court, in 1854, the township of Benton was changed so as to run from the northeast corner of section 36, on the range line between ranges 33 and 34, in township 68 east, so as to embrace Stephen H. Parker and the settlement on Honey creek, above Parker, and the settlement on the east fork of One Hundred and Two river, and vote at Redford, and be known as Benton township. At the October term of court, in the same year, 1854, Benton township was again divided and a new township formed, as appears from the following record:

County Court, October Term, 1854.

Ordered, that Benton township be divided by the township line between townships 67 and 68, east and west, and bounded on the south by the state line, on the west by the west fork of the One Hundred and Two river, and on the east by range lines thirty-three and thirty-four, and said township shall be known as Ross township, and the place of voting shall be at the house of John Lambert, in said township.

The population of the county, was rapidly increasing at this time, and the new comers began petitioning for townships, and in most cases the petitions were granted as the increasing legal business of the county made it necessary.

It was a toilsome trip to some of the residents to come to the county seat, when they needed the services of a justice of the peace, and this many were compelled to do, as their own justice was frequently far removed from them and the limits of his jurisdiction great. The southern and western portions of the county grew in population more rapidly than other sections, and in this part the next change occurred as follows:

March Term, County Court, 1855.

It is ordered that the lines of Polk, Benton and Jackson townships be so changed as to form a township bounded as follows: beginning on the county line between Page and Taylor counties, on the line dividing townships 68 and 69, thence east along said line to the range line dividing ranges 33 and 34, thence with said range to the township line between townships 69 and 70, thence east along said line to range 32 and 33; then with said range line north to the northern boundary of Taylor county; thence west with said county line to Page county; thence south with said line to the place of beginning; and to be known as Washington township. The first election shall be held at the house of William Seabolt, in said township.

The next change was made by the county court, June 10, 1857.



Ordered, that sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 in township 68, range 33, and all of township 68, range 34, to extend westward on township 68, range 35, as far as the west fork of the One hundred and Two river, shall compose the township of Benton, for all township purposes, and all other orders concerning the boundaries of said township are hereby annulled. The next action taken in reference to this matter bears the date of February 20, 1858.

It consisted in re-townshiping the entire county, changing the boundaries that already existed, and instituting new political divisions.

Herewith is given the entire action of the county court:

February 20, 1858.—It is hereby ordered by the county court that the county of Taylor be, and the same is hereby altered, changed and divided into municipal townships and election precincts as follows: to-wit, townships 67 and 68 north, of range 32, west, shall constitute one civil township, and shall be known as Jefferson township.

September 25, 1858.—It is hereby ordered by the county court of Taylor county that section 1 and the north half of section 12, township 67, range 33, are hereby added to Jefferson township.

Townships 69 and 70, north of range 32 west, shall constitute one civil township, and shall be known as Platte township, and the first election shall be held at the house of Mr. Coplinger, said election to be held on the first Monday in April, 1858. North half of section 6, township 68, range 32 and the east half of section 25, township 69, range 33, is hereby added to Platte township for all civil purposes.

Township 67 north, range 34 west, shall form and constitute one civil township, and be known as Ross township, with the addition of sections 36, 25, 24 and 13, of township 67, range 35.

Township 67 north, range 35 west, shall constitute one civil township, and be known as Polk township, with the exception of sections 36, 25, 24 and 13.

Township 68 north, range 35 west, shall constitute one civil township, and be known as Mason township, and the first election shall be held at the house of Elisha Gladden, to be held on the 5th day of April, 1858.

Township 69 north, range 35 west, shall constitute one civil township and shall be known as Dallas township.

Township 70 north, range 35 west, shall constitute one civil township and shall be known as Nodaway township, and the first election shall be held at the house of James R. Foster, on the first Monday in April, 1858.

It is hereby ordered by the county court of Taylor county, that, township 68 north, range 33 west, shall constitute one civil township and shall be known as Clayton township, May 25, 1858. It is hereby ordered by the county court of Taylor county, that township 69, range 33 and township 70, range 33, shall constitute one civil township, and shall be known as Marshall township, and the first election shall be held at the house of Josiah Littier, May 25, 1858.

It is hereby ordered by the county court of Taylor county, Iowa, that township 67, range 33, and the northeast quarter of section 1, township 67, range 34 (except section 1 and the north half of section 12, township 67, range 33), shall constitute one civil township, and be known and designated as Jackson township. *March 3, 1860.*

Five years now elapsed before further action was taken. At the June session of the board of supervisors 1863, it was reported that: The committee on organization report in favor of setting apart township 70, range 34, as a civil township; to be known as Holt township, as asked for in the petition, and that the first election be held at the house of A. S. Davis, in said township, and that the clerk of the board give notice of the organization of said township, as required by law.

No other changes were made until 1869, when the following entry appears: September session of the board of supervisors, 1869—Supervisor Flick presented a petition from citizens of congressional township 68, range 32, asking that the civil township of Jefferson be divided, and township 68, range 32, be created a civil township, to be called Gay township, and that Gay street schoolhouse be the place of holding elections, which was adopted.

September session of the board of supervisors, 1869—Supervisor Robinson presented a petition for the division of Platte township. On motion the prayer of the petitioners was granted, organizing township 68, range 32, into a new township under the name of Grant.

In the year 1870, we find the following: September session of the board of supervisors, 1870—A petition was presented from the citizens of township 70, range 33, for a separate township organization, and that the name of the township be Grove, and that Edwin Houck be appointed commissioner to give notice of election, etc., and that the elections be held at the residence of Edwin Houck, which was adopted.

At the January session of the board of supervisors in 1880, the township of Benton was so divided that all territory within the corporate limits of the city of Bedford, should compose a township organization, and be known as Bedford township. The boundaries of this township were subsequently amended to read as follows: Bedford township shall be comprised of the east  $\frac{3}{4}$  of sections 22, 27 and 34, all of section 23, 25, 26, 35, and 36, and the south  $\frac{1}{2}$  of section 24, township 68 north, range 34 west.

This was the last township to be created, and only minor changes in boundaries have been made since.

#### FIRST LAND ENTRIES.

Prior to the opening of the general land office, at Council Bluffs, which originally embraced within its jurisdiction fourteen counties in southwestern Iowa, the settler held the land by right of preemption and claim laws. This precarious right of claim was the sole tenure, and was precarious because mere occupancy of government land, without compliance with certain legal formalities, gave no certain property in the land occupied.

Preemptions were different and gave the settler the right to hold one hundred and sixty acres and, when it was surveyed and brought into market, the privilege of buying it at the minimum rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. But though three hundred and twenty acres, or even more, might be claimed, it was liable to be sold to the highest bidder, at the sales, according to the usual laws effecting the sale of government lands, and those who held claims, merely,



were uneasy, since they might lose their lands and the improvements they had made, by being ousted at the sales. Much of the land was worth a great deal more than the minimum price, especially that adjoining timber, or in the vicinity of towns, or such as was new or contained valuable deposits of stone or coal. Speculators took advantage of these facts, noted the most valuable portions of the county and were ready to give high prices for them. This abuse could not be prevented by the government, whose duty it was to sell the land to the best advantage, as if a private landholder. This rapacity on the part of speculators led to the organization among the real settlers of protective associations and such vigorous measures were often taken that finally the rights of the settlers came to be respected.

The entering of land was a circumstance, to which the settler looked forward to with hope; then he would be assured of the right to own and enjoy the land he may have cultivated for years, though in fact, it was not his own. However, once it was entered in his own name and the purchase price paid, then his title was held secure and lasting.

Following we give a list of some of the earliest land entries, made at the general land office at Council Bluffs; the reader will note that most of them were in territory now comprised in the townships of Ross, Polk, Benton, Mason and Dallas: May 24, 1853—southwest of southwest section 29, township 68, range 35, forty acres, James M. Stockton. May 24, 1853—southeast of southeast section 30, township 68, range 35, forty acres, James M. Stockton. May 24, 1853—northeast of northeast section 31, township 68, range 35, forty acres, James M. Stockton. May 24, 1853—northwest of northwest section 32, township 68, range 35, forty acres, James M. Stockton.

May 24, 1853—East half of southeast section 31, township 68, range 35, eighty acres, Thomas Holland.

May 27, 1853—Southwest fractional quarter section 6, township 67, range 35, one hundred fifty-three and seventy one-hundredths acres, William B. Warmly.

May 27, 1853—Southwest quarter section 5, township 67, range 35, one hundred and sixty acres, Elias Bridgewater.

June 1, 1853—West half of northwest section 14, township 68, range 35, eighty acres, James Mason.

June 1, 1853—Northwest fractional quarter section 31, township 67, range 35, one hundred sixty-six and twenty-eight one-hundredth acres, Krout.

June 3, 1853—Northeast fractional quarter section 6, township 67, range 35, one hundred fifty-four and twenty-eight one-hundredths acres, William H. Ferguson.

July 8, 1853—West half and southeast of northwest and northeast of southwest section 8, township 67, range 34, one hundred sixty acres, John L. Stephens.

July 8, 1853—Southwest quarter northwest section 18, township 67, range 34, thirty-three and nineteen one-hundredths acres, Jacob Miller.

July 22, 1853—Northwest fractional quarter of southwest section 18, township 69, range 35, thirty-nine and eighteen one-hundredths acres, Joseph Buckingham.

July 25, 1853—Southeast of southeast section 14, township 67, range 35, thirty-nine and thirty-four one-hundredths acres, Joshua Brown.

September 9, 1853—Southwest of southwest section 33, township 69, range 35, forty acres, James Scarlett.

September 9, 1853—East half of northeast section 32, township 68, range 34, eighty acres, Abner N. Dougherty.

September 9, 1853—East half of northwest section 29, township 68, range 35, eighty acres, Samuel Weininger.

September 9, 1853—Southwest of northwest section 18, township 68, range 35, thirty-five and eighty-seven one-hundredths acres, W. W. Scarlett.

September 9, 1853—North half of northwest section 18, township 68, range 35, seventy-five and thirty one-hundredths acres, Samuel Scarlett.

December 9, 1853—East half of northwest quarter section 5, township 67, range 34, eighty-one and twelve one-hundredths acres, James Ross.

December 9, 1853—Southwest of southeast section 5, township 67, range 34, forty acres, John Lambert.

December 9, 1853—Northwest of northeast section 8, township 67, range 34, forty acres, John Lambert.

December 9, 1853—Southwest of northeast section 18, township 67, range 34, forty acres, Henry Baker.

December 9, 1853—Northeast of northwest section 18, township 67, range 35, forty acres, Henry Baker.

December 13, 1853—Southeast of southeast section 14, township 67, range 35, thirty-nine and thirty-four and one-hundredths acres, Joshua Brown.

December 13, 1853—East half of southwest section 10, township 68, range 35, eighty acres, James Mason.

December 13, 1853—Northeast of northeast section 15, township 68, range 35, forty acres, James Mason.

December 13, 1853—North half of northwest section 30, township 69, range 35, forty acres, Henry McAlpin.

The above list is but a few of the very earliest entries and does not contain the names of the earliest settlers, such as the Hinchmans, Parkers, Derricksons, Lowe, Ross and others, who were here at the organization of the county, but were slower in making their entries, no doubt owing to the difficulty in making the trip to Council Bluffs. Subsequently, a land office was opened at Chariton, Lucas county and most of the settlers entering land in this county, went to that point. In connection with the early land entries, it may be of interest to give the following unique document, which is found among the early records.

#### STATEMENT OF ADAM VINNEDGE.

*Taylor County, Iowa, February 5, 1855.*

I take great pleasure in stating the following facts: I, Adam Vinnedge, came to the above named county in the month of July, 1854, and stopped at the residence of Judge John Lowe, and informed him that I intended to purchase a claim, meaning that I wanted to purchase an improvement on public land, and the above named John Lowe replied to me that his daughter, Elizabeth M. Miller, had a claim to sell and I immediately called on the said Elizabeth M. Miller, and bought the claim on condition that the land was not entered, and paid her five



dollars in hand to close the bargain; and I went to the land office at Council Bluffs as soon as I could conveniently do so and entered the said claim subject to the said Elizabeth M. Miller's preemption, after which I paid her, the said Elizabeth M. Miller, two hundred and ninety-five dollars.

On September, 1854, I received from her, the said Elizabeth M. Miller, through the hands of her father, one hundred and fifty dollars in trust to enter land at the land office at Bluff City, Iowa. The money was counted to me by her father, who at the same time, gave me the following numbers of land, towit: The northwest fourth of the southwest quarter of section 29, and the south half of the northwest quarter of section 29, township 68, range 34; and I further state that her father gave me verbal instructions to enter the above named land in the name of Elizabeth M. Miller, and her heirs; and I further state that the said Elizabeth M. Miller's father-in-law, towit: Jacob Miller, recognized the said claim as being hers, the user, Elizabeth M. Miller's, and seemed perfectly willing that she should receive the money and use it as her own. This statement made in the presence of

MICHAEL HOUSE,  
MARK MURPHY.

The Elizabeth M. Miller, mentioned in this remarkable document, intended to be very explicit and binding, is the widow of Dr. Luther Bent, and she is still living at this writing and resides with her youngest son, Curtis Bent, in Northwest Bedford.

#### SURFACE FEATURES AND DRAINAGE.

The county is situated on the western slope of the great divide between the Missouri and the Mississippi rivers, and though so near the former, it has still a much higher elevation than the counties along the Mississippi—the difference being two hundred and sixty-three feet above the level of low water in the last named river. The general dip of the surface of the county, averaging two feet to the mile, is west of south and consequently, all the larger streams flow in that direction, and its surface waters find their way to the Missouri.

The largest stream within the limits of the county is the west branch of the One Hundred and Two river, which is formed by two considerable streams, uniting near the north line of Mason township. The extreme northwestern part is drained by the East Nodaway, which enters the county from Adams on section 6, Nodaway township, and leaves it to enter Page county on section 6, Dallas township. A few minor streams of the county flow into the Nodaway, but it drains a very small territory. The west branch of the One Hundred and Two enters from Adams county on section 1, Nodaway township and after flowing in a nearly southern direction through Nodaway (first touching the northwest corner of Holt township), Dallas, Mason and Polk townships, finally leaves the county and the state on section 27 of Polk township. Shortly after its exit, it is joined by the middle and east forks of the One Hundred and Two and their conjoined waters flow on to the Missouri.

The middle fork is the smallest of the three, and takes its rise in Washington and Marshall townships, the former being almost entirely drained by the middle



fork. The east fork of this river takes its rise in numerous small streams in Platte township, leaving it by two main branches on section 3 which unite on section 1 of Marshall township; thence it flows southwest, through Marshall, across the corners of Clayton and Benton, and almost diagonally through Ross to enter the State of Missouri.

East of the east fork of the One Hundred and Two river is the small stream, Honey creek, which really rises in Ringgold county, near Clearfield. It flows in a southwesterly direction across Clayton and Grant to Jackson, where it turns to the south and continues that course until it leaves the state. The southeastern portion of the county is drained by West Grand, Platte and Platte Branch rivers.

Taken all together these streams afford the most perfect system of drainage imaginable; so perfect in fact, that there is not an acre of land in the county that may be called a swamp. On the streams of the west and southern sections, is where the wooded regions are found; the northeastern portion being almost devoid of timber. The northeastern part of the county is comparatively level; the southern part a succession of ridges, none of which deserve to be called hills. The prairie occupies the whole of the higher portion of the county, while the timber areas are found on the bottom lands, along the streams; the most common trees being the elm, linden, black walnut, black-oak, burr-oak, poplar and ash. The breadth of the bottoms is variable, being in some places from two to four miles wide, in others little more than wide enough for the stream to pass between the low bluffs.

The wealth of Taylor county is due to the prevalence of the deposit known as "drift," which covers its entire surface. The origin and nature of this material may be fully learned from the geological history of the county. It forms, however, one of the richest of the rich soils for which Iowa is so famous. Analysis of its composition shows it to have a very small percentage of clay, and a large percentage of purely silicious material. The county is peculiarly adapted to the growth of those grains and fruits that contribute most largely to the maintenance of man. Its fertility is sufficiently well indicated by the rank luxuriant growth of prairie grass and the strength of most of the common wild plants. For centuries the earth has been giving of its substance to the nourishment of plant life, but the return it has gleaned only adds to its powers. The humus—soil containing the remains of vegetation—seems almost endowed, not only with the life-sustaining, but the life producing principle.

The broad acres of Taylor county were not subject to the wonderful changes which have passed over their face without a purpose, and that purpose is sufficiently clear and needs no comment. For ages, the earth has brought its increase, and for ages more the process of growth and decay may go on, without destroying the fertility of this wonderful soil.

The nature of the soils of a given district is sufficiently distinct to admit of a kind of rude classification, which serves the double purpose of nomenclature, and indicates their value. To two of the three classes into which they are usually divided; namely, drift, bluff and alluvial—the soil of Taylor county belongs to the first and last named. As has been said, the drift deposit or soil covers the surface of the entire county to a depth varying from five feet to sixty feet. In the



"bottom lands," however, is to be found the so-called "alluvial," a soil which, from the nature of its origin, is probably the very richest known. This latter is the residue or fine sedimentary matter left by the waters of a stream when at highest flood. Rushing down declivities, the waters of both the ancient and modern streams wore away their soft embankments, carrying the material thus derived to the lower lands, depositing them at all points where the waters were comparatively at rest. These constitute the "flat" or "bottom land"—the present flood plains of the county's rivers. Not only will the physical peculiarities of these two formations serve to distinguish them, but the different characters of their vegetations make an excellent criterion.

The flora of the deeply wooded valleys will be found to differ in many essential points from that of the prairies, each of which is characteristic. This feature is a most noticeable one in Taylor county, especially on its western side, which is infinitely diversified with hills and valleys, strangely and confusedly mingled together.

Riding from Bedford in any direction many valleys are crossed and hills surmounted—valleys and hills that were formed by great streams that raged through these narrow passes ages ago—and the wonderful and rapid changes in vegetation, from a prairie to a woodland flora was before the prairie had been plowed, a sufficiently plain indication of the changes in the formations on which they flourish.

This remarkable adaptability to certain plants in particular regions, whereas in others their very existence is critical, has induced a vast amount of speculation and experiment as to the adaptability of Iowa soils for the growth of forest trees. What is true of this great state as a whole, is true of the county of Taylor.

Dr. White for many years state geologist, gave an admirable summary of discussions on this much mooted point and demonstrated that, notwithstanding the fact that the distance from the northern to the southern limits of the state, is more than three degrees of latitude, in consequence of the slight difference in surface elevation, and the great degree of uniformity in the character of the soil, there is a striking uniformity in the character of the native vegetation; for the same reasons also, there is an equal uniformity in the adaptability of the soil and climate to the production of cultivated crops. There are, indeed, many species of indigenous plants restricted to certain parts of the state, and others that are found only in habitats rendered congenial by moisture, dryness, barrenness, unusual fertility, etc., as the case may be; yet these are only exceptions to the general uniformity throughout the state of all indigenous vegetation, including the forest trees.

The subject of the distribution of indigenous vegetation is a very suggestive and interesting one in all its bearings, but especially when applied to the growth of forest trees, it becomes one of unusual practical importance to every citizen of Iowa. The great importance which attaches to this part of the subject, is apparent from the fact that the wood of forest trees for fuel no less than for other purposes, is an indispensable element in the prosperity, and even the habitation of any country, not to mention the beneficial effects of forest upon the climate,

the beautifying and adornment of its landscapes, and the shading and sheltering of its homes.

Dr. White continues: "If there is really an unfitness of prairie soil for the growth of forest trees, then at least one third of our state is worthless indeed. But this is not the case, for personal observation in all parts of the state, extending through a long period of years, has established a knowledge of the fact that all varieties of our indigenous forest trees will grow thriftily upon all varieties of our soils; even those whose most congenial habitat is upon the alluvial soil of our river valleys, or upon the rugged slopes of the valley sides."

As has been previously indicated, this county is remarkably well drained all over its surface by the numerous small streams, the waters of which ultimately find their way to the Missouri. The character of these streams is determined by the natures of the soil and surface over which they flow. The clear sparkling streams of New England, are wanting in the waters of Taylor county. These latter flow throughout their entire courses in this county in narrow, sinuous, ditch-like depressions in their flood-plains, and over the materials previously mentioned as drift and alluvial. This is the cause of their excessive muddiness.

Notwithstanding the fact that the beds of these rivers dip in the direction of their courses at the average rate of two and sixty-eight one-hundredths feet per mile, their sinuosity is so great and the specific gravity of their water so largely increased by reason of the fine comminuted material held in suspension, that they are very sluggish, and it would seem decidedly inappropriate to dignify them with the title of river.

#### SWAMP LANDS.

By an act of congress, approved March 28, 1850, to enable Arkansas and other states to reclaim swampy lands within their limits, granted all the swamp and over-flowed lands remaining unsold within their respective limits to the several states. Although the total amount claimed by Iowa under this act does not exceed four million acres, it has, like the Des Moines river and some of the land grants cost the state considerable trouble and expense, and required a deal of legislation. The state expended large sums of money in making the selections, securing proofs, etc. but the general government appeared to be laboring under the impression that Iowa was not acting in good faith; that she had selected a large amount of lands under the swamp land grant, transferred her interests to the counties, and the counties to private speculators, and the general land office permitted contests as to the character of the lands already selected by the agents of the state as "swamp lands." Congress by joint resolution December 18, 1856, and by act of March 3, 1857, saved the state from the fatal result of this ruinous policy. Many of these lands were selected in 1854 and 1855, immediately after several remarkably wet seasons, and it was but natural that some portions of the selections would not appear swampy after a few dry seasons. Some time after these first selections were made, persons desired to enter parcels of the so-called swamp land and offering to prove them to be dry. In such cases the general land office ordered hearing before the local land officers, and if they decided the land to be dry, it was permitted to be entered and the claim of the state rejected.



Speculators took advantage of this. Affidavits were bought of irresponsible and reckless men, who for a few dollars, would confidently testify to the character of the lands they never saw. These applications multiplied until they covered three million acres. It was necessary that congress should confirm all these selections to the state, that this gigantic scheme of fraud and plunder might be stopped. The act of congress of March 3, 1857, was designed to accomplish this purpose. But the commissioner of the general land office held that it was only a qualified confirmation, and under this construction sought to sustain the action of the department in rejecting the claim of the state, and certifying them under the act of May 15, 1856, under which the railroad companies claimed all swamp land in odd numbered sections within the limits of their respective roads. This action led to serious complications. When the railroad grant was made, it was not intended, nor was it understood that it included any of the swamp lands. These were already disposed of by previous grant. Nor did the companies expect to receive any of them, but under decisions of the department adverse to the state the way was opened, and they were not slow to enter their claims. March 4, 1862, the attorney general of the state submitted to the general assembly an opinion that the railroad companies were not entitled even to contest the right of the state to these lands, under the swamp land grant. A letter from the acting commissioner of the general land office expressed the same opinion, and the general assembly by joint resolution, approved April 7, 1862, expressly repudiated the acts of the railroad companies, and disclaimed any intention to claim these lands under any other than the act of congress of September 28, 1850. A great deal of legislation has been found necessary in relation to these swamp lands.

By the act of 1850, all the overflowed and swamp lands within the state were granted to her, and the state authorities were required to select them and report through the surveyor-general to the general land office the lands selected. For the better and more certain compliance with the act of congress the state granted the lands to the counties in which they lie, and the counties in most cases appointed agents to make the selection, and the selections were made at the expense of the county, amounting in many instances to two thousand dollars, and averaging one thousand dollars to each county, making the entire expense one hundred thousand dollars for the state. All this expense was incurred under the direction of the commissioner of the general land office, and the form of report and required affidavits were duly returned to the surveyor-general's office and by him certified to be overflowed or swamp lands, returned as such to the commissioner of the general land office. The list returned for the counties in the Council Bluffs land district were examined and approved and orders were issued to the land office to enter the lands contained in the list upon the tract books and plats of the office, and to withdraw them from sale; this done about the 23rd of September, 1854. The first action of the officials of Taylor county with reference to these lands bears the date of Monday, February 13, 1854. Judge Lowe on that day appointed Otis Fenno and Henry Baker, as commissioners "to lay off the wet and overflowed land in said county;" the former having allotted to his special charge ranges thirty-two and thirty-three; the latter caring for thirty-four and thirty-five. On March 5, 1855, John Hayden was appointed by the same judge "to survey the swamp land and report the station that draws is necessary and the length



and depth of said draws and the probable cost of the drawing of all the swamp lands in a part of range 34, and all of 35." No reports were ever made by these parties so far as the records show.

Subsequent to this, other appointments seem to have been made, having in view these same objects. On October 24, 1855, Otis W. Fenno, John Lowe and Thomas F. Kimball all reported on swamp lands which they had been appointed to survey, and W. C. Gibson, then county judge, states that the plats made by these commissioners had been sent to the governor of Iowa. There is no record of their appointment, nor data from which to learn the nature of the completeness of the report made. No further action appears to have been taken until September, 1862. Meantime, the agents of the American Emigrant company, a corporation of capitalists with headquarters at Hartford, Connecticut, had been visiting various counties of the state, and among them Taylor county. Attracted by the fertility of the soil and the evidently bright future of the county, overtures were made to the county officials to purchase the swamp lands, reclaim them in accordance with the provisions of the various acts of the general assembly, and settle them with a stanch and reliable populace. The agent of the company, C. D. F. McKay, was the one interested for his employers. The first entry relative to the transfers of these lands, is found in the proceedings of the board of supervisors for September, 1862. The proposition, it will be seen, emanated from the party contemplating the purchase, and is as follows: "Comes now C. D. F. McKay, agent of the American Emigrant company, and makes the following proposition to purchase the swamp land of Taylor county, Iowa, to wit,

Agreement made on the 2nd day of September, 1862, between the County of Taylor, in the State of Iowa, of the one part, and the American Emigrant company, by F. C. D. McKay, their general agent for the State of Iowa, of the other part. Then the said county devotes the swamp land belonging to said county and all the funds and claims of the county on the general government therefor to the making of the public improvement hereinafter mentioned by said company, and agree to sell, release and convey the same to said company according to this agreement.

The said company agrees to take said lands and funds and claims, and to make for said company any public works or improvements therefor, which the board of supervisors may request and which are authorized to be made therewith by loan of the full amount and value of one thousand and eight hundred dollars. The specification of such public works to be furnished to them as they prefer, at any time after October 1, 1863, and the work to be finished according to specifications, by one year from the first day of January, after the furnishing of such specification. In order to ascertain the value of such work and improvements, it is agreed that if the board of supervisors shall offer to superintend the working of such improvements without charge to said company, then said company shall pay into the treasury of said county, the sum of one thousand and eight hundred dollars in current funds, as soon as the first day of January, A. D., 1865; and if said board does not choose to superintend the working of said improvements, then the jobs of work are to be let at public auction, to the lowest fair bidder, who shall give ample security for performance in the usual way of letting such job.



No taxes are to be assessed against the property agreed to be sold by this contract, while the county holds the legal title thereto, or the equitable title by mortgage, or otherwise; but as fast as any of it is sold to purchasers, the same may be taxed, and the company agreed to settle said land fit for settlement with white settlers and purchasers and by selling farms of the usual average size, one-third thereof in three years, and another third thereof in five years, and the whole of said lands in eight years from the ratification of this contract, by a vote of the people and a canvass of the votes. Any part of said land, funds or claims the county will assign or convey to said company, or its agents, at any time on request; but if the claim of the county is not fully paid, and sales made, the entire interest so conveyed shall be mortgaged back to the county to secure the fulfillment of this contract, unless other satisfactory security be given. Therefore, the said company take the said lands subject to all the provisions and conditions of the act of congress of September 28, 1850, and expressly release the State of Iowa, and the said County of Taylor, from all liability in reclaiming said lands, or in the draining thereof, any contract now existing between the county and any persons in relation to said lands to be respected and fulfilled by said company, as the board of supervisors shall decide to be just and right. The said board will appoint any agent to transact any business relating to said swamp lands, or funds or claims, which said company, or its agent may at any time nominate or request; but in no case shall the county be responsible for the faithfulness of such agent, or for any costs or expense thereof.

By order of the board,

D. W. HAMBLIN, *Chairman,*

E. T. SMITH, *Clerk.*

Supervisor Littier moved to accept and sign the aforesaid contract, and the board being advised in the premises, ordered that said contract be and the same is hereby accepted and signed by the parties."

Before the contract was fully ratified the supervisors appointed a special committee to investigate the matter a little further. His duties performed, the report was made, and while evidently without much point, and no bearing on the original contract, gave at least the semblance of caution to the final acceptance of the agent's proposition. The committee reported the following in the September session, 1863:

"Comes now the special committee on swamp land and reports as follows, to wit: We, the special committee, do hereby make the following report, to wit: 'That we do hereby authorize the clerk to comply with the request of the American Emigrant company, of Hartford, Connecticut, on the following conditions:

*First:* That he cause to be made and executed the deed conveying on the part of Taylor county the swamp lands of said county to the company aforesaid.

*Second:* That he keep the deed to said lands in his possession until the aforesaid company shall have paid the sum of nine hundred dollars for the use and benefit of Taylor county; and provided further, that our clerk do keep in his possession the deed so made until they shall have mortgaged to Taylor county the

lands so conveyed to them; then, and not before, to give up the deed to said company."

JAMES GARTSIDE.

Thus the contract of sale was fully made and endorsed, Almost immediately after accepting the report of the committee last mentioned, the board of supervisors proceeded to convey the land in question. The document making such conveyance and the conditions pertaining thereto are here given:

*Whereas*, The American Emigrant company has requested this county to convey to the trustees of said company, in trust for said company, the swamp and overflowed lands of said county, and the indemnity claim of the county on the United States, the same which has been contracted to be sold to said company by a written agreement between the county and the company, bearing date the 2nd day of September, A. D. 1862, and which is now on file in the office of the clerk of the district court of said county; and,

**1200021**

*Whereas*, The said company does not ask such conveyance except upon such condition that the land and property so conveyed shall be fully mortgaged back to said county to secure to the county the fulfillment by the company of all the terms and conditions of the said written agreement. Therefore, it is:

*Resolved*, That this board does now grant, sell and convey to the trustees of said company, as requested the land and property hereinafter mentioned and described in the form following; that is to say: This indenture, made the eighth day of September, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, between the County of Taylor, in the State of Iowa, of the first part, and Andrew J. Hammond, John Hooker and Henry K. W. Welch, all of the city of Hartford, in the State of Connecticut, trustees, and in trust for the American Emigrant company, bearing date "the second day of September, in the year, one thousand, eight hundred and sixty-three, and now on file in the office of the clerk of the district court of said county, has sold to said company all the swamp and overflowed lands of said county, and all the claim of said county on the United States for or on account of such of said swamp or overflowed lands as have been sold for cash or located with warrants, or scrip, by or under the authority of the United States, since the swamp land grant (so-called). Now therefore in pursuance of said agreement, in writing, and in consideration of the sum of one thousand and eight hundred dollars, to the said party of the first part, paid by said company, the said party of the first part doth hereby sell, assign, transfer and quitclaim to the parties of the second part, as such trustees as aforesaid, all and singular, the lands and real estate hereinafter mentioned and described, the same being situated in the said county of Taylor.

Fraction: section 31, township 67, range 34,—125 acres.

E. hf. S. E. section 30, township 67, range 34.— 62.50 acres.

S. W., S. E. section 30, township 67, range 34,— 40 acres.

W. hf. N. W. section 29, township 67, range 34,— 80 acres.

S. hf. N. E. section 20, township 67, range 34,— 80 acres.

N. hf. N. E. section 20, township 67, range 34,— 80 acres.

S. E. N. W. section 20, township 67, range 34,— 40 acres.

N. E. S. W. section 20, township 67, range 34,— 40 acres.

N. W. S. E. section 20, township 67 range 34,— 40 acres.



S. W. S. E. section	20, township 67, range 34,—	40 acres.
E. hf. S. E. section	17, township 67, range 34,—	80 acres.
W. hf. S. E. section	17, township 67, range 34,—	80 acres.
S. hf. S. W. section	9, township 67, range 34,—	80 acres.
N. E. N. W. section	9, township 67, range 34,—	40 acres.
S. hf. N. E. section	9, township 67, range 34,—	80 acres.
N. E. N. E. section	9, township 67, range 34,—	40 acres.
S. W. S. W. section	3, township 67, range 34,—	40 acres.
N. W. S. W. section	3, township 67, range 34,—	40 acres.
N. E. N. W. section	3, township 67, range 34,—	40 acres.
S. E. N. W. section	3, township 67, range 34,—	40 acres.
N. W. N. E. section	3, township 67, range 34,—	40 acres.
S. W. N. E. section	3, township 67, range 34,—	40 acres.
S. E. N. E. section	3, township 67, range 34,—	40 acres.
N. E. N. E. section	3, township 67, range 34,—	40 acres.
N. E. N. E. section	34, township 68, range 34,—	40 acres.
N. W. N. E. section	34, township 68, range 34,—	40 acres.
S. W. N. E. section	34, township 68, range 34,—	40 acres.
S. E. N. E. section	34, township 68, range 34,—	40 acres.
S. E. N. E. section	6, township 67, range 34,—	40 acres.
N. E. N. E. section	6, township 67, range 34,—	40 acres.
W. hf. N. W. section	5, township 67, range 34,—	80 acres.
W. hf. S. W. section	32, township 68, range 34,—	80 acres.
W. hf. N. W. section	32, township 68, range 34,—	80 acres.
W. hf. S. W. section	29, township 68, range 34,—	80 acres.
W. hf. N. W. section	29, township 68, range 34,—	80 acres.
S. E. S. E. section	20, township 68, range 34,—	40 acres.
S. hf. N. W. section	20, township 68, range 34,—	80 acres.
N. hf. S. E. section	26, township 68, range 34,—	80 acres.
N. W. N. W. section	25, township 68, range 34,—	40 acres.
N. E. N. W. section	25, township 68, range 34,—	40 acres.
N. E. S. W. section	24, township 68, range 34,—	40 acres.
N. W. N. E. section	24, township 68, range 34,—	40 acres.
N. W. S. E. section	24, township 68, range 34,—	40 acres.
Fraction section	35, township 67, range 35,—	125 acres.
W. hf. S. E. section	26, township 67, range 35,—	80 acres.
N. E. N. E. section	26, township 67, range 35,—	40 acres.
E. hf. S. E. section	23, township 67, range 35,—	80 acres.
W. hf. N. W. section	24, township 67, range 35,—	80 acres.
N. E. N. W. section	24, township 67, range 35,—	40 acres.
S. W. S. E. section	13, township 67, range 35,—	40 acres.
N. W. N. W. section	18, township 67, range 34,—	40 acres.
S. W. S. W. section	7, township 67, range 34,—	40 acres.
S. E. S. W. section	7, township 67, range 34,—	40 acres.
N. W. S. E. section	7, township 67, range 34,—	40 acres.
W. hf. N. E. section	7, township 67, range 34,—	80 acres.
N. E. S. E. section	6, township 67, range 34,—	40 acres.

N. W. S. E. section 28, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. N. E. section 28, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. E. section 28, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. E. section 28, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. N. E. section 28, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. E. section 28, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. W. section 28, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. W. section 27, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. W. S. E. section 27, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. E. section 27, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. E. section 22, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. E. section 22, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. E. section 22, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. W. S. E. section 22, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. W. section 22, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. W. section 22, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. W. section 22, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. W. section 20, township 68, range 34,— 40	acres.
E. hf. N. E. section 17, township 68, range 34,— 80	acres.
S. W. S. W. section 9, township 68, range 34,— 40	acres.
Fraction section 34, township 67, range 35,— 125	acres.
W. hf. N. E. section 34, township 67, range 35,— 80	acres.
E. hf. N. E. section 34, township 67, range 35,— 80	acres.
S. E. S. W. section 27, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. E. section 27, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. S. E. section 27, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
W. hf. N. E. section 27, township 67, range 35,— 80	acres.
N. E. S. W. section 27, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. W. section 22, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. W. section 22, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
E. hf. N. W. section 22, township 67, range 35,— 80	acres.
W. hf. S. W. section 22, township 67, range 35,— 80	acres.
W. hf. N. W. section 22, township 67, range 35,— 80	acres.
S. W. section 15, township 67, range 35,— 160	acres.
N. W. section 15, township 67, range 35,— 160	acres.
S. W. S. E. section 28, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. E. section 34, township 68, range 34,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. E. section 34, township 68, range 34,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. E. section 34, township 68, range 34,— 40	acres.
N. W. S. E. section 34, township 68, range 34,— 40	acres.
W. hf. N. W. section 32, township 68, range 34,— 80	acres.
W. hf. N. E. section 32, township 68, range 34,— 80	acres.
S. hf. S. E. section 26, township 68, range 34,— 80	acres.
N. E. N. E. section 11, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. W. section 1, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. W. section 1, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. W. S. W. section 1, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.



N. E. S. W. section	1, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. N. W. section	1, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. N. W. section	1, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. W. section	1, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. W. section	1, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. W. section	12, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. W. section	12, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. W. section	12, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. N. section	12, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. W. S. W. section	12, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. W. section	12, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. W. section	12, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. W. section	13, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. N. E. section	13, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. E. section	12, township 67, range 67,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. E. section	1, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. W. S. E. section	1, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. E. section	1, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. E. section	1, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. E. section	1, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. N. E. section	1, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. E. section	36, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. E. section	36, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. E. section	36, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. W. S. E. section	36, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. N. E. section	36, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. N. E. section	36, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. E. section	36, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. E. section	36, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. W. section	29, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. W. section	29, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. E. section	30, township 67, range 33,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. E. section	30, township 67, range 33,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. W. section	30, township 67, range 33,— 40	acres.
N. W. S. W. section	22, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. N. E. section	22, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. E. section	22, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. N. E. section	22, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. E. section	22, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. E. section	15, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. E. section	15, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. W. section	23, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. N. W. section	23, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. W. section	23, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. W. section	14, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. W. section	14, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. E. section	14, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.

N. W. S. E. section 14, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. E. section 14, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. W. section 14, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. W. section 14, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. N. W. section 14, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. W. section 14, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. N. E. section 14, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. E. section 14, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. N. E. section 14, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. E. section 14, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. E. section 11, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. E. section 11, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. E. N. E. section 11, township 67, range 32,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. E. section 10, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. W. section 10, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. W. S. E. section 10, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. W. section 10, township 67, range 35,— 160	acres.
W. hf. N. E. section 10, township 67, range 35,— 80	acres.
S. E. S. W. section 3, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. W. section 3, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. W. section 3, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. E. section 3, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. E. section 3, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. W. S. E. section 3, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. E. section 3, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. W. S. W. section 3, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. E. N. W. section 3, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. fr. N. W. section 3, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
N. W. N. E. section 3, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
S. W. N. E. section 34, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
S. W. S. E. section 34, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
N. W. S. E. section 34, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
N. E. N. W. section 34, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
S. E. N. W. section 34, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
S. W. N. W. section 34, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
N. E. S. W. section 34, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
N. W. S. W. section 34, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
S. E. S. W. section 34, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
N. W. N. E. section 27, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
S. W. N. E. section 27, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
N. W. S. E. section 27, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
S. W. S. E. section 27, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
N. E. N. W. section 27, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
S. E. N. W. section 27, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
N. E. S. W. section 27, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
S. E. S. W. section 27, township 67, range 35,— 35	acres.
N. W. N. E. section 22, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.



S. W. N. E. section 22, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. W. S. E. section 22, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. W. section 22, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. E. N. W. section 22, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. W. section 30, township 67, range 33,— 40	acres.
S. E. N. W. section 30, township 67, range 33,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. W. section 30, township 67, range 33,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. W. section 32, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
S. W. N. E. section 32, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. E. section 32, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. E. section 29, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
S. W. N. W. section 28, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. W. section 28, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. E. section 21, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. E. section 8, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
S. E. N. E. section 8, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. E. section 8, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
S. W. N. E. section 8, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
N. W. S. W. section 8, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. W. section 8, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. E. section 5, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. W. section 4, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
N. W. S. W. section 4, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
S. W. N. W. section 4, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. W. section 4, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. W. section 4, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. E. section 4, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. E. section 4, township 68, range 33,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. W. section 10, township 67, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. W. S. E. section 35, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. E. section 35, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. W. section 35, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. W. N. E. section 35, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. E. N. E. section 35, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. E. section 35, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. W. section 36, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. W. section 36, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. W. N. W. section 36, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. W. section 25, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. W. section 22, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. E. section 22, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. W. section 22, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. W. section 15, township 68, range 35,— 160	acres.
S. W. N. W. section 15, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. E. section 15, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. E. section 15, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. W. section 15, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.

N. W. N. W. section 15, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. E. N. W. section 15, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. E. section 9, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. E. section 9, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. E. N. E. section 9, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. E. section 9, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. W. section 10, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. W. S. W. section 10, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. W. N. W. section 10, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. W. section 10, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. W. section 10, township 68, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. W. section 3, township 68, range 35,— 123	acres.
S. W. S. E. section 4, township 68, range 35,— 63	acres.
S. W. S. E. section 3, township 68, range 35,— 61	acres.
S. W. S. W. section 35, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. E. S. W. section 35, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. W. S. E. section 35, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. E. S. W. section 25, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. E. N. W. section 25, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. W. N. E. section 25, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. E. section 24, township 69, range 35,— 160	acres.
N. E. N. W. section 24, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. E. section 24, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. W. N. E. section 24, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. E. N. W. section 24, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. W. N. W. section 24, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
N. E. N. W. section 24, township 69, range 35,— 40	acres.
S. hlf. S. W. section 13, township 69, range 35,— 80	acres.

It is hereby declared to be an express condition of this grant, that in case said county at this time has not obtained a perfect title to any of said lands, that any interest, claim or title thereto, the county may hereafter acquire under or by virtue of the swamp land grant aforesaid, shall inure to the benefit of the party of the second part, without any further or subsequent conveyance thereof, anything herein contained to the contrary, notwithstanding.

It is also a like condition of this conveyance that in case any lands are included in the foregoing descriptions which were not, or are not contracted to be sold by said company in and by said agreement in writing, so on file as aforesaid, the same are reserved and excepted from the effect and operation of this conveyance, and are not intended herein or hereby to be conveyed; and all lands reserved from the inoperation of the said agreement in writing are reserved from the effect and operation of this conveyance.

And the said party of the first part doth further covenant and agree that all the lands within the said county that may at any time be duly selected as swamp or overflowed lands, and all such lands as may not be included in this conveyance if any, the party of the first part will at any time convey by deed similar to this conveyance, at the request of the American Emigrant company, to the said company, its trustees or assigns.



That any proceeds of said claim on the United States, if any proceeds shall be received, the party of the first party will at any time, on like request, assign and transfer in separate or more convenient form to said company, its trustees, or its assigns, and any land that shall be located under, or by any scrip, so-called, which may be obtained on said claim, the party of the first part will convey in like manner to said company, or their trustees, or assigns, on reasonable request so to do. The party of the second part takes this grant subject to all the provisions of the act of congress of September 28, 1850, and especially release the state of Iowa and the said county from all liability for releasing said lands.

Given under the hands of the board of supervisors of Taylor county. By order of the board of supervisors.

D. W. HAMBLIN, *Chairman*,  
 JOSIAH LITTIER,  
 J. B. CAMPBELL,  
 VINCENT BEALL,  
 ASA COBB,  
 WM. G. MERIDETH,  
 JOHN MCLEAN,  
 THOMAS COBB,  
 JAMES GARTSIDE,  
 JESSE ORME,  
 OLIVER JENKS,

E. T. SMITH, *Clerk of Board of Supervisors*.

STATE OF IOWA, }  
 [SEAL] }  
 TAYLOR COUNTY. }

S. J. HALL, *Notary Public*.

On this 8th day of September, in the year one thousand, eight hundred and sixty-three, personally came before me, the undersigned, a notary public in and for the county and state aforesaid, the said D. W. Hamblin, Thomas Cobb, Vincent Beall, Josiah Littier, James Gartside, Asa Cobb, J. B. Campbell, Jesse Orme, Oliver Jenks, John McLean, W. G. Merideth, supervisors, and E. T. Smith, clerk of the board of supervisors of said county, personally to me known to be the identical persons, whose names are affixed to the foregoing conveyance as grantors, and who executed it, and personally acknowledged said instrument of conveyance to be their voluntary act and deed as the board of supervisors of this county of Taylor.

In testimony whereof, witness my hand and notarial seal.

Done in Bedford, Taylor county, Iowa, the day and year last above written.

[SEAL]

S. J. HALL, *Notary Public*.

And so passed from the control of the county, more than thirteen thousand acres of what are to day her best lands.

Citizens of today might feel disposed to criticise the board of supervisors for almost giving away this land, but there is no question but they acted in good faith. At that time, and indeed many years later, the greater part of the above described land was considered useless, without great expense in draining. And the county needed money badly for immediate use, and so it was considered, at the time, good business sense to exchange apparently worthless land for cash.

## EARLY RECORDS.

Some of our readers may question the wisdom of giving place in this work to these quaint old documents, but no better way can be taken to show the legal qualifications of the early officials and the nature of the business transacted at that early date. The social life and the moral condition of the people can be judged far better by the records they leave, than by tradition, which is always more or less distorted and colored in its transmission down from one generation to another. The documents herein given, may evoke a smile as none of them given display profound legal knowledge, but their simplicity bears witness of the deep undercurrent of honor running through them. In those days, it was not deemed necessary to employ a lawyer to make a bargain binding or a legal transaction valid. If a farm were bought or sold, the simplest procedure consistent with a business-like method was adopted, and on its adoption, became the rule of action. Among the many curious records in the law history of the county, the following will illustrate the nature of the business and perhaps throw some light on the social relations of the early settlers.

## FIRST MARRIAGE RECORD.

STATE OF IOWA, }  
 [SEAL]  
 TAYLOR COUNTY. }

WILLIAM F. WALTERS.

To any authorized licensed officer or minister, authorized to solemnize matrimony, you are commanded to join in wedlock William Allumbaugh to Mrs. Nancy Jane Ross, Both of Taylor County, Benton Township. Gave under my hand, the first day of March, 1851.

JOHN HAYDEN, *Clerk.*

I, John W. Miller, a justice of the peace, certify that I joined together in matrimony William Allumbaugh to Nancy Jane Ross, this 29. day of March, 1851.

JOHN W. MILLER,  
*J. P.*

*A true copy.*

## FIRST DEED OF RECORD.

This indenture, made and entered into between William F. Walters, of the County of Taylor, and the State of Iowa, of the first part, and Elisha Gladen, of the County of Buchanan, and State of Wisconsin, of the second part, witnesseth that the party of the first part has bargained and sold to the party of the second part that parcel of land situate and being in the County of Taylor, and State of Iowa; to-wit, the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 14, township 68 north, of range 35 west, containing forty acres, for the consideration of one hundred dollars, to me in hand paid, before sealing the same. And the said William F. Walters will sell, warrant and defend the title of the above described land to the proper use and benefit of him, the said Gladen, from and against himself and heirs and all



persons claiming in or through, or under him, the said Walters. As witness, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 31. day of July, 1854.

WILLIAM F. WALTERS [SEAL]

STATE OF IOWA, }  
[SEAL]  
TAYLOR COUNTY. }

I, John Lowe, County Judge for the County and state aforesaid, do certify that William F. Walters, whose name is signed to the foregoing deed of conveyance, was signed in my presence for the purpose and intent before named, as witness my hand and seal of office, this the 31. day of July, 1854.

JOHN LOWE,  
*County Judge.*

I do certify that the above is a true copy of the deed from Walters to Gladen. Gave from under my hand, this 8. day of October, 1854.

WM. B. CONGER,  
By J. LOVE, *for Conger.*

SECOND DEED OF RECORD.

This indenture, made and entered into this 29. day of October, A. D. 1854, by and between the undersigned County Judge of Taylor County in the State of Iowa, for and in behalf of the inhabitants of said County of the first part, and Edwin Houck, of the second part, witnesseth that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of \$30.15 to him paid by the said party of the second, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, doth hereby sell, convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part, a certain tract, or parcel of land, lying and being in the County of Taylor, and State of Iowa, and in the town of Bedford, the county seat of said county, and known in the plat of the general survey of said town, as lots 7 and 8, block 11, in said town of Bedford; and the said party of the first part hereby covenants that the said County of Taylor will warrant and defend the said premises to the said party of the second part against the lawful claims and deeds of all persons claiming the same, as assigns of said county and by its authority.

In testimony whereof, I, John Lowe, County Judge of said county, have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office this 27. day of October, A. D. 1854.

JOHN LOWE,  
*County Judge.*

STATE OF IOWA, }  
TAYLOR COUNTY. }

On this 27. day of October, A. D., 1854, before Henry W. Baker, District Clerk, within and for said County, personally came John Lowe, who is personally known to me to be the identical person who executed the foregoing deed as party grantor thereto, and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed for the purposes therein named.

Given from under my hand, this 27. day of October, A. D. 1854.

H. W. BAKER, *Dist. Clerk.*

I do certify that the above is a true copy.

LUTHER BENT.

## QUITCLAIM DEED.

*To all persons to whom these presents shall come, greeting:* Know ye that whereas at the March term of the District Court, in and for the County of Taylor, State of Iowa, held on the 29. day of March, A. D. 1855, at the town of Bedford, in said county, a decree was made by the District Court of said county that Adam Vinnedge do make and deliver unto Elizabeth M. Bent and her heirs, a quitclaim deed of, in and to the following described tracts or parcels of land lying and being in the county aforesaid, the same, having prior to said term of court been entered with money belonging to said Elizabeth M. Bent, in trust for her in the name of said Vinnedge, to-wit: The northwest fourth of the southwest quarter, and the south half of the northwest quarter of section No. 29, in township No. 68, of range No. 34.

Now I, the said Adam Vinnedge, do therefore, in consideration of the premises aforesaid, release, remise and forever quitclaim unto the said Elizabeth M. Bent and to her heirs, the aforesaid tracts or parcels of land to have and to hold the same, together with all the rights thereto appertaining.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name, the 29. day of March, A. D. 1855.

ADAM VINNEDGE.

STATE OF IOWA, }  
COUNTY OF TAYLOR. }

Be it remembered that on this the 29. day of March, A. D. 1855, before me sitting as a District Court of said county, at its March term, 1855, personally appeared before me, Adam Vinnedge, who is personally known to me to be the identical person who signed the within deed of conveyance as party grantor thereto, and acknowledged the same to be his voluntary act and deed for the purposes therein mentioned.

E. H. SEARS,  
*District Judge.*

I do certify that the above is a true copy of the original deed to Elizabeth M. Bent, April 4, 1855.

WILLIAM M. MCEFFEE,  
*Recorder of Taylor County.*

## FIRST MORTGAGE OF REAL ESTATE.

This deed of mortgage, made and entered into this 25. day of December, A. D. 1856, by and between Edward Scrivner, of the County of Taylor and State of Iowa, of the first part, and Isaac B. Fells, of the County of Gentry and State of Missouri, of the second part, witnesseth that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the better securing the payment of the promissory note hereinafter mentioned, as well as the consideration of the sum of one dollar to him in hand paid by the party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have and by these presents do bargain, sell, alien, convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part and to his heirs and assigns forever, the following described tracts of land, lying and being in the County of Taylor,



State of Iowa, to-wit, the west half, and the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section No. 20, in township No. 67 north, of range No. 35, west, containing in all one hundred and twenty acres, more or less, to have and to hold the same unto the said party of the second part, and to his heirs and assigns forever: *Provided* however, that this conveyance and these presents are upon these express conditions:

*Whereas*, The said Edward Scrivner has this day executed his promissory note in words and figures as follows: to-wit,

Twelve months after day I promise to pay Isaac B. Fells the sum of one hundred and forty-four dollars for value received this 25. day of December, 1856.

his  
EDWARD X SCRIVNER.  
mark

ATTEST: G. W. LEWIS.

Now if the said Edward Scrivner, his heirs, executors, or administrators shall well and truly pay the sum of money specified in said note, together with all interest thereon, if any, when said note shall become due and payable according to the true tenor, meaning and effect thereof, then this conveyance and the property hereby conveyed shall be void; but if the said Edward Scrivner, his heirs, executors and administrators shall not well and truly pay the sum of money specified in said note, together with all interest thereon, if any, when said note shall become due and payable according to the true tenor, meaning and effect thereof, then this conveyance shall remain in full force, and the said party of the second part, his heirs or assigns may proceed to sell this for simple title to the property hereinbefore described, or any part thereof, at public vendue, to the highest and best bidder for cash at the courthouse door in the town of Bedford; first giving twenty days public notice of the time, terms and place of sale, and of the property to be sold, by six written hand-bills to be put up in six public places in the County of Taylor, and upon such sale shall execute and deliver a deed or deeds in fee simple of the property to be sold to the purchaser or purchasers thereof, and any statement and recital whatever in said deed or deeds by said party of the second part, his heirs, executors and administrators or assigns shall be received in all courts of justice as *prima facie* evidence of the truth thereof, and receive the proceeds of said sale out of which he shall pay the first cost and expenses of this trust and meet whatever may be in arrears and unpaid on said note, whatever of principal or interest, and the balance, if any, shall be paid to the party of the first part, his heirs or legal representatives.

In testimony whereof, the said party of the first part has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and date first aforesaid.

his  
EDWARD X SCRIVNER.  
mark

STATE OF MISSOURI, }  
GENTRY COUNTY. }

Be it remembered that on this 25. day of December, A. D. 1856, Edward Scrivner, who is personally known to me, the undersigned judge of the probate court of Gentry County and state aforesaid, subscribed to the foregoing deed of

mortgage, as grantor, this day personally came before me and acknowledged that he executed the same as his free act and deed for the purposes and uses therein mentioned.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal of office the day and date aforesaid.

GEO. W. LEWIS,

*Judge Probate Court, Gentry County, Mo.*

I do certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the original mortgage deed to Isaac B. Fells, as now on file in my office for record this 25. day of December, A. D. 1856.

WILLIAM N. MCEFFEE,

*County Recorder.*

#### FIRST CHATTEL MORTGAGE.

For and in consideration of the sum of one hundred dollars, in hand paid, I, E. W. Fouts, of Bedford, Taylor County, and State of Iowa, hereby sell and convey unto E. T. Smith, of said town, county and state, the following described personal property; to-wit, twenty-three black and white spotted hogs, about eight months old, marked underbit from each ear, there being spayed sows among them, one sow, black and white spotted, mark underbit from each ear, with six pigs, about eight weeks old; one red two-year-old heifer, and two one-year-old red and white spotted heifers, and two hundred and fifty bushels of corn in the ear; and I, said Fouts, hereby covenant to warrant and defend the property against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever. The conditions of the above obligation are such as,

*Whereas*, the said E. W. Fouts has this 23. day of April, A. D. 1862, made, executed and delivered to Windsor, Cathcort and Co., his promissory note, for the sum of one hundred dollars, with ten per cent interest from date, and falling due the 25. day of December, A. D. 1862, and the said E. T. Smith has signed said note, being security for the payment of said note at maturity, now if the said Fouts shall, will and truly pay said promissory note, principal and interest at maturity, and save the said E. T. Smith harmless from liability on said note, then this obligation to be void; otherwise the said E. T. Smith shall be entitled to take possession of said personal property, and to sell the same for the payment of said note, with the interest due thereon, after first giving the same notice as is required by law to be given for the sale of like property under execution. Witness my hand this 23. day of April, A. D. 1862.

E. W. FOUTS.

STATE OF IOWA, }  
[SEAL]  
TAYLOR COUNTY. }

Be it remembered that on the 23. day of April, A. D. 1862, before me, the undersigned, a notary public in and for said county and state, personally appeared E. W. Fouts, to me personally known to be the identical person whose name is affixed to the foregoing instrument as grantor, and acknowledged the execution of the same to be his voluntary act and deed.



Witness my hand and notarial seal at Bedford, Taylor County, Iowa, April 23, A. D. 1862.

S. J. HALL, [SEAL]  
Notary Public.

#### THE ORDINATION OF JOHN LAMBERT.

From a previus act of the Regular babtis church of Jesus Christ, called three forks of Nodawa, to call for a presbytery for the ordination of John Lambert, Met at the House of william Shuen, in page co., iowa, Elder pale p. Chamberlain, and by the request of the church preceded as the presbetory, the candidate, John Lambert, having been set Before him by the church, and by examination, find sd candidate to bee of good moral deportments and sound in the faithe, and I, withe church, believe him to be called to the work of the Ministry of the holy gost, procede to ordane him and set him A part with the full power of the ministry, and as such I recommend him by the grace of god to the churches wher Ever his lot in Cast. Gave from under this twenty fourthe day of June, in the year of our Lord, 1854.

PAUL P. CHAMBERLAIN,  
Presbytery.

I certify that the above is a true copy of the ordination of John Lambert, of Taylor County, Iowa, this 10. day of June, 1854.

LUTHER BENT, *Deputy Recorder*.  
FOR WM. B. CHANGE, *Recorder*.

Done by J. Lowe, by order of Bent.

#### LOCATION OF COUNTY SEAT.

After the organization of the county, the next step in natural order was to determine and locate a county seat. The strife relative to this important place in the county history had not yet had a beginning when, in the winter of 1853, the general assembly appointed a commission of three persons, Jesse Mager, William R. Robbins and S. F. Snider, to locate a seat of justice for this county. The gentlemen prepared to discharge this important duty by subscribing to the following oath of office, succeeding which are given all the records pertaining to the matter:

You do solemnly swear that you have no personal interest in the location of the seat of justice of Taylor County, neither directly nor indirectly, and that you will faithfully and impartially locate the same according to the best interests of said county, taking into consideration the present as well as the future population, and make due return of the location of the same to the office of the County Court, of Taylor County, so help you God.

JESSE MAGER,  
WM. ROBBINS,  
S. F. SNIDER,  
*Commissioners*.

I, John Lowe, County Judge of Taylor County, do certify that Jesse Mager, William Robbins and Squire F. Snider, commissioners to locate the seat of jus-

tice of Taylor County, have this day appeared at my office and taken the oath required by law.

Gave under my hand this 14. day of March, 1853.

JOHN LOWE, *County Judge*.

In obedience to an act of the last Legislature of the State of Iowa passed at the last session of said term, appointing the undersigned to locate the seat of justice of Taylor County, after having been duly sworn, according to law, on the 14. day of March, 1853, and there in the discharge of our oaths, and upon an examination of the locality of said county, and the population and the prospects of the future population, and the face of the county at large, we have decided on the south west quarter of section 26, township 68, range 34, as the county seat of Taylor County.

Gave from under our hands and seals this 19. day of March, 1853.

JESSE MAGER,

WM. ROBBINS,

S. F. SNIDER,

*Commissioners.*

I, John Lowe, do certify that the foregoing is a correct copy of the report made by the locating commissioners for Taylor County, returned to my office on the 19. day of March, 1853, and now on file in my office.

Gave from under my hand this 19. day of March, 1853.

JOHN LOWE, *County Judge*.

At the April, 1853, term of the County Court of Taylor County, it was ordered that the county surveyor be, and is, hereby ordered to survey and lay off the town of Bedford, and make the squares to be laid off 12x12, with a street on each square 66 feet wide, 8 lots in a block, the lots to be 3x8, alleys 12 feet wide, stones at the corners of a portion of the lots and streets, and return a map of the number of lots laid off and their size.

This 5. day of April, 1853.

JOHN LOWE, *County Judge*.

The following is the record of the sale of town lots in the new county seat: May term, 1853, ordered that Henry W. Baker be and hereby is appointed county commissioner for Taylor County, for the express purpose of advertising and selling the town lots in Bedford, being the County Seat of said County, and said Commissioners shall give four weeks' notice of the sale of lots, in four places in the County, and some three or four places in the adjoining Counties, the sale to be made by order of the County Court, and on such credit as the Court may direct, and it is ordered by the Court that the County Surveyor make two plats, showing the number of lots and the width and breadth of said lots, streets and alleys; one for the use of the County Court and one for the use of the Commissioner. And it is ordered that the said sale be on the 4. day of July, 1853.

JOHN LOWE, *County Judge*.

Previous to the sale in July, and subsequent to the above rendered order, the county surveyor made his report on the streets and blocks in the embryo city. His report is as follows: In obedience to an order of the County Court of Taylor County, made at the May term for the year 1853, appointing Mr. Jacob Ross to lay off the town of Beadforde, it being the County seat of Taylor and on the



sw. qr. of sec. 26, and of Range 34, and of town no. 68, I commenced on the south of the Public square and ladee of Block No. 10 and 11, and 12, thene ladee off Block No. 13, and 14, and 15, and 16, thene ladee off Block No. 4, and 5 and 6 and 7 and made 8 lots in East Bloke and planted corns at the Blocks, the Number of the Block at the East corne stone, the lotts is numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, in each block. Beginning at the S. E. corn of the lot at No. 1 Beeing West. The lots is 66 feete in front and Ran back 126 feete, with 12 feete ally. The streete is 66 feete wide and are Ran at 12 degrees variation. The lots 96 ladd off in number. The Publick Square is the Block North of the B. No. 10. The streete East of the Square is Water Strete and the Strete west of the Square is Grene Streete; the second stret west of the square is Madison Strete and the strete S. of the square is Jefferson streete; the second streete S. of the square is Mane Streete; 3 strete S. of the square is Washington streete; the 4 strete S. of the square is Jackson Streete; the second strete E. of the square is Dodge Streete, the strete N. of the square is pearle Streete.

In testimony I have set my name this the 1. of July, 1853.

JACOB ROSS, *County Surveyor.*  
*for tyler Co, iowa.*

On August, 25, 1853, Judge John Lowe, who, by the way, had been one of the chairmen during the survey, certified to the correctness of the report of the county surveyor.

Three days after the above report of the county surveyor was made, July 4, 1853, the first sale of lots took place. To quote from an old article written by Edwin Houck:

“No person attended the sale except the farmers of the county. A barrel of whisky was on the ground, and after they had drawn freely, the sale commenced, and most of the lots surveyed were sold at prices varying from ten to twenty dollars, but not a single lot was paid for, or title or title bond given, and if any record was kept of the sale, it is not to be found among the records of the county. It is but just, however, to say that these sales were regarded by the parties concerned, as binding upon themselves, and were so treated in nearly every instance.”

In this manner was the county seat of Taylor county located. The subsequent history of the town will be found in its appropriate place.

#### RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

Iowa's agricultural resources and inherent wealth are marvelous, due not only to its richness of soil, but also to the fact that its lands were appropriated by intelligent, progressive men. The state has a very small percentage of waste land. Its many advantages place it among the foremost of the western states. It is truly a grand state and well may its inhabitants be proud to call it home. The magnificent, but wild and unsubdued prairies of southwestern Iowa occupied by the Indian hunter and trapper, with an occasional adventurer or traveler, have been transformed into the cultivated and civilized region of the present day by the unfailing energy of an enterprising people. Add to these the prosperous cities and towns with important religious, educational and business interests and



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BEDFORD



BAPTIST CHURCH, BEDFORD





the result is a transformation which is worthy of pride and delight to all concerned.

Agriculture as a vocation is becoming elevated and ennobled by broader and more scientific education. The large number of students from our farms who are graduating from the splendid school of agriculture and mechanic arts, at Ames, the manifest interest in lectures on agriculture given at chautauquas and farmers' institutes, all evidence the purpose of improving methods and equipment for this leading industry. As has been previously shown, the greater part of the county is exceedingly rich in the elements necessary to plant growth, and doubtless the remarkable increase in amount and value of our agricultural products is largely due to the fact that it lies in the great corn belt and compares favorably with other portions of the state, and perhaps with any equal area in the United States. There has been an evolution from prairie grass to corn, from corn to oats, wheat, timothy and clover, and again to corn. The possibilities of this section, as a corn producing county, are difficult to estimate. It depends largely on the intelligence and labor used in its cultivation. The first crop, after breaking up the sod, yielded from thirty to fifty bushels, and this yield held up for years. After this, fertilizing and frequent rotation of crops resulted in a yield of sixty, seventy-five and even one hundred bushels per acre; the heavier the fertilization, the heavier the crop.

The young farmer of to-day, who prepares his ground and plants and harvests his crop with modern implements, can hardly realize the primitive methods employed forty years ago. A study of those methods will show the rapid progress made in this county along all lines of human activity. Improvements in farming methods and in farm machinery have kept pace with improvements in other industries. First came the breaking up of the prairie, which was done in the spring or growing season, while the roots were tender and would rapidly decay. The breaking plow has long since disappeared. It was of peculiar design and perfectly adapted to the work of turning over the tough sod of the prairie. Ox teams were often used, and many men made a business of breaking prairie in the early days. Often corn was planted the first year by cutting through the sod with an ax or spade, and in the opening thus made the corn was dropped, and the opening closed by pressure of the foot. This was called sod corn, and received little or no cultivation. By the next season the sod was sufficiently rotted that after the plowing it could be torn to pieces with a harrow. Then the ground was marked off with a sled-like marker and the corn dropped by hand and covered with a hoe. As settlers increased their acreage there arose a demand for a faster method of planting corn, and under the spur of necessity the corn planter was invented, which planted and covered two rows at a time. This in turn called for better methods of cultivating the growing corn and the single and double shovel plows were brought out, which cultivated one side of the row at a time; this in a short time became too slow, and in obedience to the law of evolution the cultivator was invented, which did double the work of the former, and did it much better. The original corn planter, which required two men to operate—one to drive and one to drop—has been improved until we now have the check-row, and the stirring plow and cultivator have been improved until we have the modern sulky plow, which obviates the laborious walking neces-



sary with the old machinery. It is said that by the improvements in the farming tools now used, a saving of more than ninety per cent of the physical labor is effected over those employed no more than three decades ago.

It is an established fact that corn is one of the great pillars upon which rests the fabric of our national prosperity; that at harvest time and earlier, one of the questions uppermost in the minds of the banker, the packer and the railway magnate, as well as of the farmer and feeder, is, "What of the corn crop?" Yet comparatively few fully realize the vast importance of this source of wealth, and fewer still, perhaps, recognize the rapid strides that have been made during the past decade in the science and practice of corn breeding.

Iowa has been a leader in corn improvement. The exhibits at the corn palaces and carnivals held at different points of the state, and the railway seed-corn specials in charge of specialists from our agricultural college attest the general and vital interest in corn production. It is a great credit to the farmers of this county that they have had a part in this work and are receiving a share of the benefits.

Oats, rye, barley, hungarian millet, timothy, clover, blue grass, sorghum, potatoes and all kinds of garden vegetables are sure crops and the yield is up to the average of the best agricultural states in the Union. It is conceded that wherever blue grass grows almost all the grains, fruits and vegetables will grow.

It is a common saying that southwest Iowa produces an average crop every year. It is a country of "sure crops." There has never been a year of total failure. Short crops there have been, it is true, but no year since the settlement, away back in the forties, has there been a total failure. The soil wears well, producing a good yield each year and shows but little signs of exhaustion, and responds readily to good treatment. Improved methods of farming shows corresponding increase in results. The early settlers, perhaps, never dreamed that their land might wear out and the later comers saw no immediate use of hauling out manure so long as their crops were good. Now, however, better methods are coming into vogue, and the average yield is on the increase. A school in charge of professors of the State Agricultural college, who give instruction in the selection of seeds, the preparation of soil, and the rotation of crops, promises to largely increase the annual yield. The old method of sowing, reaping and threshing small grain is obsolete and only a memory. The sickle was crowded out by the cradle, which was followed by a man to rake and another to bind the sheaves. This in turn gave place to the reaper, with a man standing on the platform and with a rake, removing each sheaf, followed by from five to seven men to do the binding, and two men to do the shocking. This is now all done away with by the self binder, which not only simplifies the work, but saves the farmer and his wife the expense and care of many men during harvest time, for this machine cuts, binds, and drops the sheaves into convenient piles so that one man is able to do the shocking.

The old process of threshing grain used by the early settlers of the county was the primitive one of tramping, or beating it out. Now, with a modern threshing machine, driven by steam, the band-cutting, feeding, threshing, win-

nowing, measuring the grain, and stacking the straw, is one combined process, and hundreds of bushels a day are threshed.

Mr. John Hayes, ex-president of the Iowa State Agricultural fair, an old resident of the state, a man of large affairs, and of keen observation, well states in a newspaper article, published some time ago, the wonderful transformation that has taken place in the last fifty years:

"Fifty years ago the fertile prairies of Iowa were largely a part of the national domain, the titles rapidly passing from the United States by preemption, by cash entry, by land-warrant locations, and by railroad land grants.

"Forty years ago, the better part of Iowa remained untilled and vast areas were still called inaccessible, no railroads having penetrated its western portion.

"Thirty years ago western Iowa was in the full flush of development. With the advent of the railroad in 1868, a new era came to this section of the state, and during the ten succeeding years the almost limitless stretches of native sward were broken; the luxuriant grasses and beautiful flowers of the prairie disappeared."

The county enjoys the distinction and advantages of being situated in the most famous blue grass region in the world, rivaling the famed blue grass region of Kentucky. In this section, wherever the soil has been sufficiently firmed down by the hoofs of grazing herds, and the native grasses pastured closely, blue grass takes possession and forms a tough, dense, compact sod. It may be found everywhere, on the prairie, in the open woodland, by the road side; everywhere the land has been undisturbed for a short time.

The soil of the blue grass region is peculiarly adapted to the growth of all the approved tame grasses prized by farmers for pasturage and hay. South-western Iowa is the natural home of all the tame grasses. A good stand may be obtained in the course of two or three years by pasturing closely, and scattering the desired seed, without any further preparation whatever. This method is not practiced by farmers, however, but mentioned for the purpose of showing the adaptability of our soil to the tame grasses. To secure a blue grass pasture it is not necessary to even sow the seed. Close pasturing for a few years is all that is required. The prairie grass will disappear and in its place will appear a perfect stand of blue grass, the most succulent and nutritious of grasses. As a plant food for growing stock it is too well known and generally recognized and appreciated to require proof. It is largely to its muscle and bone producing qualities that Kentucky has so long led her sister states in the rearing of horses, unrivaled for suppleness, symmetry of form, fleetness and endurance and in being the home of the Kentucky "Short-Horns."

The blue grass is the pioneer grass of spring, starting with the first warm days, before the frost is fairly out of the ground and furnishing good pasture for stock several weeks before timothy and clover begin to grow.

While the blue grass is thus valuable in shortening the feeding months by furnishing early spring pasturage its chief value lies, in this climate, in its unexcelled qualities as a grass for winter pastures. Farmers and stock growers have abundantly proven the great value of winter pastures. There is that about the climate of this region which preserves the nutritious qualities of the tame grasses far into the winter season, but all recognize the blue grass as admirably adapted



to this purpose. The practice is to turn the stock of the tract designed for the next winter's pasture, about June 1. By the following November the surface will be covered to the depth of from four to six inches with blue grass that has grown to the height of from two to four feet and fallen down completely covering the ground.

Owing to the favorable climate this grass retains nearly all of its strength or nutritive qualities until the new growth in spring takes its place. Usually there is not enough snow to prevent cattle from feeding off such pastures most of the winter. Horses live and thrive on it with no other shelter than the brush, if on woodland or a shed under which they may seek shelter from the worst storms, if on the open prairie. While it is not claimed that it is well to rely wholly upon winter pastures without shelter for stock, it is wholly within the record to say that it is possible to raise horses entirely on pasturage in this county, and the feeding reason for cattle and sheep may, by proper attention to pastures seeded with different grasses, be confined to a period varying from thirty to sixty-five days in each year. Our grasses furnish pasturage the year around, and cured as hay find a ready market. The peculiar climatic and soil conditions produce hay of excellent quality. Much of our hay is sent south. In St. Louis, Vicksburg, Memphis, Nashville and many other southern cities, southwest Iowa hay is so highly prized that it is asked for by name.

For the purpose of advertising to the world the advantages of this section of the state a "blue grass league" was organized, embracing the following counties: Adams, Adair, Appanoose, Cass, Clark, Decatur, Fremont, Lucas, Madison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Taylor, Union, Wayne and Warren. Its membership consisted of representatives from local organizations in each county. The organization was effected March 1, 1889, and the same fall a "blue grass palace" was built at Creston. The building was one hundred feet square with four main towers at the corners, a principal tower ninety-two feet high in the center, the summit of which was reached by a spiral stairway, and a castle or battlement tower near the front entrance. The different counties representing the league had exhibits in their own separate booths, and a spirit of good natured rivalry was manifest among the exhibitors. The exposition was formally opened by Gov. Larrabee, who was accompanied by his official staff in uniform. Gov. Thayer of Nebraska, and his staff were present and participated in the opening exercises. Each day had its program of speaking, music and other interesting features. Many speakers of national reputation were secured, among them Dr. H. W. Thomas, Chicago, and Dr. Lyman Abbott of Brooklyn, two of the most noted divines of the country. A finer exhibition of fruits, grains and grasses has never been seen in the state, and from the liberal advertising, it drew visitors from all over the country, many of whom, no doubt, have since removed to this section. Three exhibitions were given, the first 1887, second 1890 and the third and last in 1891. It has been said that the citizens of this section themselves never realized what wonderful resources this country possessed until they held this exposition. Here could be seen and easily followed the marvelous progress made by our people in a quarter of a century. Besides bring this section into notice and advertise the boundless resources of this section, but it led to an increased interest in all lines of agriculture among the people of the va-

rious counties. The horticultural products are not usually spoken of in connection with the resources of an agricultural region such as ours, but all fruits peculiar to a temperate climate thrive here. Apples, peaches, pears and every variety of small fruit, are produced in abundance and excel in quality similar fruits grown in California.

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

It will be remembered that the county was organized in 1851, and it was not long until the more thoughtful began to speak of fairs. In 1855, 1856 and 1857 many new settlers came, and among them were men of broad culture and opinions whose wisdom and influence is manifest in the progress that has attended the county in its moral and material interests, so in 1857 the agitation which was commenced by the settlers who came first, was made to assume the appearance of success by the aid of those who arrived later. October 7th of that year, "a meeting of the citizens of Taylor county" was held at Bedford, for the purpose of organizing an agricultural society. Daniel Hoover, of Jackson township, was made chairman, and D. Dale, secretary. Jesse Evans, E. W. Fouts and D. Dale were appointed a committee to draft a constitution and by-laws. It was resolved that a county fair be held at Bedford that same month—October 31st—and also, that on that day a meeting be had for the purpose of perfecting the organization of an agricultural society in the county. A committee of five was appointed from Benton township (which then embraced Bedford), to make the necessary arrangements for the fair. It was styled a "central committee," and consisted of Dr. Luther Bent, J. C. Roy, D. Dale, Dr. P. I. Cox and John Campbell. A committee from each of the then existing townships was named to act in conjunction with the above mentioned "central committee," as follows: Dr. R. S. Baker, Clayton township; J. R. Foster, of Dallas township; Dr. J. R. Standley, of Jefferson township; D. Hoover, of Jackson township; Mr. Stockton, of Polk township; J. W. Wood, of Washington township. Saturday, October 31, 1857, the citizens met at Bedford for the purpose of holding a county fair, and the record says: Whereupon, without any previous arrangements the following were exhibited.

"By William Booker, one bull, two years old (white); by William Booker, one mule, one year old; by Stephen H. Parker, one bull, two years old; by Stephen H. Parker, one sucking calf; by William A. Wysong, one sucking colt; by A. Dougherty, one jack; by John Derrickson, one colt, two years old (black); by William Nash, one yearling filley."

Following this exhibition of stock, the meeting elsewhere mentioned for perfecting the organization was had. D. Hoover was chairman and E. Heuck, secretary. The committee on constitution and by-laws reported. The constitution was adopted without change, and the meeting proceeded at once to the election of officers. Jesse Evans was chosen president; Thomas Cobb, vice-president; D. Dale, secretary and R. S. Baker, treasurer. The by-laws were then taken up, but failed of adoption. The record then says: "Further proceedings were postponed for want of time, and the meeting adjourned until the Saturday between Christmas and New Year's following," and strictly to the day a meet-



ing was held, with the following result, in D. Dale's handwriting: "Now on the day appointed by previous notice for the purpose of perfecting the organization of the Taylor County Agricultural society, the citizens of said county were called and came not. It was therefore considered that the time had not yet arrived for such an institution and further proceedings, therefore, came to a stop, and a general continuance was entered thereon."

From that until 1859 the Taylor County Agricultural society's history is a blank.

In 1859 a meeting was held; the exact date is not given, but it was some time during the summer months. At this meeting Dr. Luther Bent was chairman and Hon. N. B. Moore, secretary. The old constitution of 1857 was adopted by sections, and R. A. Moser was elected president; Daniel Hoover, vice-president; D. Dale, secretary, and E. W. Fouts, treasurer. A committee of two from each township was appointed to solicit members: Polk, Martin L. McKee and Jacob Taylor; Ross, L. D. Hatfield and Milton Phelps; Clayton, Vincent Bell and David Johnson; Benton, William Webb and Benjamin Perkins; Washington, William Carpenter and Ezra Fleming; Dallas, Eli Pangburn and D. A. Thompson; Nodaway, Isaac B. West and James R. Foster; Mason, John S. McClure and James Mason, Jr.; Marshall, Josiah Litteer and H. M. Rinker; Platte, S. W. Robinson and Oliver Jenks; Jefferson, J. R. Standley and L. W. Hillyer; Jackson, James Gartside and John Keeney.

After discussion it was determined to have a fair the second Saturday in October of that year, 1859, and an adjournment was taken to the first Saturday of September, preceding. On that date a meeting was had, and the committee appointed to procure members were called upon to state the result of their labors. Benjamin Perkins reported nineteen names and paid nineteen dollars into the treasury. J. S. McCloud secured one name and handed one dollar to the treasurer. The balance of the committee had nothing to say. Austin Allen, for himself and Charles Norse, announced a willingness to assist, and presented E. W. Fouts, the custodian of the society's funds, with one dollar. David Johnson did likewise, and thus they became members. It was then discovered that the society was minus printed certificates of membership and Benjamin Perkins was appointed a committee to procure them. It was also resolved "That premiums be awarded" at the coming fair, the second Saturday in October, 1859, and E. T. Smith, J. S. McCloud and Benjamin Perkins were appointed a committee to prepare a premium list. Asking the committee on membership that were delinquent in reports to be prepared on the fifteenth of that same month, an adjournment was taken to that date.

At the meeting September 15th, D. Dale, the secretary, was the only officer present, and James Brooks was chosen president pro tem. E. W. Fouts, the treasurer, refused to serve. E. T. Smith was elected to fill the vacancy and immediately filed a bond for five hundred dollars with approved security. James Gartside reported two names for membership, and made glad the new treasurer's heart with the sum of two dollars. John H. Liggitt paid one dollar and thus became a member. Benjamin Perkins reported four names with the required amount of cash. Alanson Arnold and John S. Boyd deposited the requisite amount of cash for membership, and David Johnson, of the committee, brought

in five names with the proper amount of money. The committee on premium list reported, and the list is a curiosity, and as it will continue to grow in that direction as time passes, we reproduce a portion of it. Comparison with premium lists of the present day will furnish interesting amusement to the reader.

FIRST CLASS—HORSES.

Best pair draft horses owned by one man, one year's subscription to the *N. W. Farmer*. Second, diploma. Best stallion, \$2.00. Second, paper. Best three-year-old gelding and upwards, diploma. Best colt from two to three years old, \$1.00. Best filly, \$1.00. Best brood mare (must have bred), \$1.50.

Judges, William A. Weeb, James Brooks and John Taylor.

SECOND CLASS—JACKS.

Best jack of any age, \$1.00. Best pair of mules of any age, paper. Best suckling colt, 50 cents.

Judges, David Johnson, T. F. Kimball and D. Griffith.

THIRD CLASS—CATTLE.

Best bull, three years old and upwards, \$2.00. Second best bull of any age, paper. Best bull, two years old, \$1.00. Second best bull, two years old, 50 cents. Best bull one year old, 50 cents.

Judges, S. Bristow, C. Coops and William Lundy.

FOURTH CLASS—COWS.

Best milch cow, \$1.00. Second best milch cow, 50 cents. Best two-year-old heifer, paper. Best one-year-old heifer, 50 cents. Second best one-year-old heifer, diploma. Best calf under one year old, diploma.

FIFTH CLASS—HOGS.

Best boar one year old and upwards, \$2.00. Second best boar, one year old and upwards, diploma. Best boar under one year old, paper. Second best boar under one year old, diploma. Best breeding sow under one year, \$1.00. Second best breeding sow under one year, diploma. Best sow and pigs, \$1.00.

Judges, A. M. Simpson, F. Walker and Joseph Edgerton.

There were twelve classes in all. The remaining ones were: Class 6, sheep; class 7, poultry; class 8, grain; class 9, farming utensils; class 10, dairy; class 11, domestics; class 12, miscellaneous articles. In class 7, poultry, reads: "Best blooded rooster, diploma. Best blooded hen, diploma." This will be amusing to the many fanciers and breeders of fine poultry in our county to-day. After the adoption of the premium list, the citizens of the adjoining counties were invited to compete for premiums. This will appear to be an extremely generous offer, when we consider the fact that the entire cash premiums amounted to thirty-one dollars. We could hardly expect a citizen of another county going to the trouble or expense of competing for the entire amount, yet many did attend from Page, Adams, Ringgold, and from Missouri, also, which shows the enterprise of the men, who at that early day were beginning to improve the breeding of their stock, and it is this spirit of enterprise that has made this region the home of the best blooded stock in the world.

The next meeting of the society, the regular annual one, occurred May 12, 1860. On motion the constitution was so amended that one person could be elected from each township to constitute a board of directors and giving them power to elect their own president, secretary, and treasurer, to be taken from



their own number. The following board was then chosen: Benton township, Benjamin Perkins; Clayton township, R. A. Moser; Dallas township, Eli Pangburn; Mason township, J. S. McCloud; Marshall township, Josiah Litteer; Nodaway township, Isaac B. West; Platte township, Oliver Jencks; Polk township, Cyrus Hickenlooper; Ross township, Asa Webb; Washington township, ——— Harlan.

The price of membership was reduced to fifty cents and Thomas Cobb was elected president; Ira Harrington, vice-president; Austin Allen, secretary; and J. H. Turner, treasurer.

Another meeting was held May 19th, and a new premium list was adopted. The board also resolved that those who were receiving agricultural papers as premiums could have the cash instead if they so desired; and it was also decided to charge an entry fee of twenty-five cents on all first-class articles, and fifteen cents on second class. The fair was then set to be held September 27th and 28th, all entries to be made the first day, and all committees to report by 10:00 o'clock the second day, which was faithfully carried out according to program. The attendance was very large for those days, and a happier occasion had never been known in the history of the county. One hundred and twelve premiums were awarded, and not one of them was paid in money. Instead of cash the successful competitors for first premiums received an agricultural paper paid for by the society. There were thirty of these. To the balance diplomas were issued. Thus was laid by our unselfish farmers of that day, who preferred wholesome literature to dollars, that firm foundation which has given Taylor county people a name throughout the state for their intelligence. From the seed thus sown a glorious harvest has been garnered, which we find well marked in their children and in the sons and daughters of those who soon followed, for what county in Iowa can show better schools, better teachers, and a people of better educational attainments? At a meeting of the society, December 15, 1860, the members got down to substantial business. A committee was appointed to examine lands and select a suitable site for a fair ground. This committee consisted of Benjamin Perkins, Josiah Litteer and Daniel Hoover. The society on this occasion voted five dollars in cash to be paid the person raising the best five acres of wheat in 1861, and a similar premium was offered for the best five acres of corn. A motion was also passed that the members solicit life memberships at five dollars each. January 12th another meeting was held and the fair ground committee reported. Their selection was the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 25, township 68, range 34, containing ten acres. They recommended its purchase at eight dollars and fifty cents per acre, amounting in full to eighty-five dollars. The society voted to make the purchase at once, instructing the officers to first examine the title of the land. The record of the meeting goes on to say: "It was then voted that the officers of this society get printed petitions for the directors of each and every township, headed with the section of law relating to the assistance of agricultural societies in improvements, signed by the secretary and president, said petitions to be circulated by the directors and presented to every voter in their respective townships for signatures; said petition to be presented to the board of supervisors at their next meeting in June."



J. H. Turner, J. S. McClelland and Benjamin Perkins were appointed a committee to draft a premium list for 1861, which they did and reported on the 26th day of March, 1861. It was more complete than any the society had yet had, and was really an excellent one. There were sixteen classes, each class made into divisions, some of them running as high as four. The first premiums were usually in farm journals, which seemed to be the desire of all. At this meeting the directors reported two hundred and three names to the petitions for presentation to the board of supervisors. As this time, Lexington, a small town in Marshall township, and located nearer the geographical center of the county than Bedford, was aspirant for county seat honors, and it also wanted the Taylor County Agricultural society to locate its fair grounds there. So some of the prominent citizens in that vicinity brought down what was called the "Lexington donation," a consideration in the promise of money, or its equivalent, if the society would locate its grounds there. This created considerable heated debate, but action was deferred, and as far as the records show, the question never came up again. The meeting adjourned to Saturday, May 25, 1861. May 25, 1861, came, but there was too much excitement of another kind to think of agricultural fairs. On April 12th of this year Fort Sumter had been fired upon by the confederates and the whole north was ablaze with indignation. On April 15th President Lincoln had issued a call for seventy-five thousand men to suppress the rebellion. In response to this call, Samuel J. Kirkwood, then governor of Iowa, on April 17th issued a proclamation, calling for volunteers. The air was full of rumors of war. The northern people loved their flag and their country and were willing to sacrifice their lives and fortunes if need be for the preservation of the Union. The excitement extended to Taylor county. Agriculture and stock raising were forgotten. The patriotic heart was kindled and the war was all that could be talked about, and our boys, one by one, and in squads of three and four, deserted the old homestead and joined the Union armies that were destined to throttle and destroy secession. So there were but few left to carry on agricultural exhibitions, and those who remained had little spirit for such enterprises. We find no record of any action of the Taylor County Agricultural society after March 26, 1861, until October 31, 1863. At this date a meeting was held. Jesse Evans served as chairman and Ira Harrington as secretary. R. A. Moser was then elected president of the society; Washington Baker, vice-president; J. R. Standley, secretary, and Benjamin Perkins, treasurer. The society then adjourned to the second Saturday in July, 1864. Before that date, however, the president called a meeting, which was held at Bedford, February 13, 1864. Dr. J. R. Standley refused to act as secretary and W. F. Walker was elected to fill the vacancy.

At this meeting it was determined to have a fair that fall, and the time, place and arrangements in regard to premiums were left to a committee of one from each township. Another meeting was held, March 5th, but little of importance was done. There was appointed a committee to prepare a premium list—to fix entrance fee for persons not belonging to the society, and wishing to compete for premiums, and to fix the time and place for holding the fairs, from which it would appear that the grounds had not yet been purchased. It was ordered that the



canvassing committee report to the secretary once a month, pay over all funds, and take his receipt therefor.

August 27th the society met again. The sixteenth and seventeenth days of September were fixed upon as the dates for the fair. Three general directors—a sort of executive committee—were chosen to manage the exhibition. The men composing the committee were: L. W. Hillyer, J. C. Meehan and W. A. Webb. J. R. Standley was elected marshall and R. A. Moser, general superintendent. The premiums of classes one and two were reduced one-half. A motion was carried that the exhibition of manufactured articles by the manufacturer be stricken from the list. At this date the membership of the society was as follows:

Allison B. Perkins, Daniel Hoover, John C. Meehan, W. A. Wysong, James Gartside, Robert Reid, J. H. Liggett, Henry Graham, A. J. Cathcart, R. Rogers, W. A. Webb, D. Underwood, William Aitkins, James Walters, L. Houck, Josiah Litteer, Joel Brown, Keller Thompson, Charles Cope, Charles Steele, D. W. Atkinson, Abner Dougherty, Jesse Lasonee, Squire Dunn, W. D. Snow, O. Perkins, L. D. Hatfield, Benjamin Hoover, R. A. Moser, E. T. Smith, William Reeves, David Johnson, J. R. Stanley, J. M. Windsor, T. Brock, J. W. Wood, John Campbell, J. S. Hall, A. J. Litteer, Elihu Baker, Simeon Wright, B. L. Johnson, Eugene Brown and John Derrickson—forty-five in all.

The fair was held on the date specified. The premium for the best stallion was one dollar and fifty cents and was drawn by J. B. Hoover, of Jackson township. The second premium was the dazzling sum of seventy-five cents and was captured by W. H. Allison. B. B. Hoover took the first and second premiums on the best brood mares, and his bank account was swelled seventy-five cents. Josiah Litteer had the best bull and received a premium of one dollar. W. A. Webb received one dollar having the best cow on exhibit. Dr. Standley had the best grove of planted timber and the best orchard. J. Wood had the second best orchard, and Dr. Standley had the best hedge “turned out” in the county. January 7, 1865, the society met again and elected: President, Daniel Hoover; Secretary, M. F. Walker; Treasurer, Benjamin Perkins, and adjourned to April 27th; at which time it was agreed to pay a premium of five dollars on the best five acres of corn, two dollars on the best two acres of spring wheat, two dollars on the best two acres of oats, two dollars on the best two acres of tame meadow, one dollar on the fastest walking horse, and one dollar on the best yoke of oxen. The society grew even more extravagant and offered a premium of one dollar on the fastest trotting horse, either in harness or under the saddle.

The fair of 1865 was held September 29th and 30th. Thomas Cobb, D. W. Young and Ira Harrington were the directors; D. Dale, marshal, and Dr. J. R. Standley, general superintendent.

December 30, 1865, the society met and began preparations for an exhibition in 1866. A delegate was chosen to meet the board of directors of the state agricultural society at Des Moines, and was instructed to file a bill at the capitol of his expenses.

At the next meeting, which was held August 11, 1866, it seems the society had become possessed of grounds. A motion said: “The fair will be held on the society’s grounds north of Bedford, October 13, 1866.” It is therefore likely that at some time since the committee on grounds appointed January, 1861, had re-

ported the society had bought the grounds. At this meeting in 1866, there is no doubt that the society owned the grounds, for D. Dale, Charles Steele, Joel Walker and D. Underwood were made a committee to prepare a ring on the grounds and put them in proper shape. Frank Walker, the secretary, was sent to Maryville, Missouri, to procure the printing of the premium list. The fair came off at the appointed time and seventy-six premiums were allowed, amounting to forty-three dollars and seventy-five cents.

This was the last exhibition given by the first agricultural society of Taylor county. The war had caused a loss of interest in it. Sectional strife and the jealousies of aspiring men wrought it harm. But it had accomplished good for the county, despite the drawbacks and there was more genuine enjoyment in the pioneer fairs of Taylor county than in the more elegant ones of today. The last record was made February 2, 1867. Josiah Litteer was chosen president; E. W. Fouts, vice-president; Robert Reid, secretary; and William Mahan, treasurer. Daniel Hoover, J. S. Boyd and R. D. McKee were appointed a committee to trade the land now owned by the society for a more suitable piece, or sell the same and buy another location more favorable. An adjournment was then taken to Saturday, February 16, 1867.

That ended it. February 16, 1867, never came. On June 25, 1874, more than seven years since the last meeting of the old agricultural society, the citizens of Taylor county again met at the courthouse "to reorganize the old agricultural society of Taylor county," so the record says, "and to consider the question of holding a fair this fall." J. C. Day presided and Col. D. H. Hamilton was chosen secretary. A permanent organization was effected by electing Col. D. H. Hamilton, president; D. W. Hamblin, vice-president; Thomas Cobb, treasurer and Samuel Bowers, secretary. The society then adjourned to Saturday, July 18, 1874, at 10:00 o'clock, a. m.

From that time there is no record of a meeting until June 26, 1875. It is evident that there was no fair in 1874, but the minds of men of that time are not clear regarding the matter and it is not possible to assign cause for the failure to make good the resolution to meet July 18, 1874, and to state why there was no fair.

At the meeting June 26, 1875, Samuel Bowers tendered his resignation as secretary, and Alex John was elected in his stead. In 1874, twenty-seven men paid to the treasurer one dollar each for membership for that year. It was the sense of the society that this money should be refunded to the various parties, and a motion to that effect prevailed. A committee, as follows, was appointed to solicit stock for the society, each share being twenty-five dollars:

Benton township, Thomas Cobb and James McCracken; Clayton township, C. Steele and J. C. Ray; Dallas township, T. M. Moore; Gay township, R. W. Harvey; Grant township, G. W. Dean; Grove township, J. W. Dunn; Holt township, W. G. Meredith; Jackson township, J. W. Wood; Jefferson township, John Flick; Marshall township, J. Litteer; Mason township, James Mason; Platte township; J. Kilgore; Polk township, J. Scrivner; Ross township, R. G. Moore; Washington township, Abe McCracken.

W. F. Evans, Alex John and D. H. Hamilton were appointed a committee to



negotiate a loan sufficient to make the advance payment on the fair grounds, and an adjournment was taken to July 10th.

At this time the report of the committee to negotiate for fair grounds was presented, approved and placed on file. The ground purchased was a fifty-acre tract, immediately south of town across the East One Hundred and Two river.

It seems that E. Houck, treasurer of the old society, had failed to settle with the treasurer of the new—had neglected handing over the funds in his possession, one hundred and ninety-four dollars and seventy cents, held by him since 1867. The society, therefore, appointed J. C. Ray and E. T. Smith to settle with him; and they were instructed to collect legal interest on the amount of funds belonging to said society, and retained in his hands after the expiration of his term of office. At a meeting held July 25th, the committee was not ready to report, and further time was granted it. The only trouble about the matter was that Mr. Houck was not satisfied that it would be agreeable to members of the old society to transfer their funds to the new. As soon as this question was settled the matter was amicably adjusted. At the July 10th meeting, J. J. Laws, Charles Steele, James McCracken, Thomas Robb and C. B. Pershin were appointed a committee to prepare a program and premium list for the fair of 1875. Charles Steele, J. C. Ray, N. Goodsill, H. McConvill and James McCracken were chosen to procure material for fencing the fair grounds, which they did. The fence was built by A. M. Campbell, at a cost to the society of three dollars and seventy-two cents per rod. J. Litteer, J. J. Laws, C. C. Mohler, N. P. Nelson and W. A. Webb were selected as the proper person to prepare the track, and to them we suppose is due the excellent track we have at the present day. An assessment of five dollars was made against each share of stock to meet the indebtedness of the society, and the secretary was instructed to collect the same at once. A motion was made to sell a portion of the grounds belonging to the agricultural society. At a meeting, July 21st, Charles Steele, E. T. Smith and Alex John were appointed a committee "to sell from ten to nineteen acres of the south end of the ground." About October 22d, of that same year, L. S. Morris purchased twenty acres at forty dollars per acre. August 14th, 1875, an assessment was made against all stockholders to the full amount of the unpaid portions of their respective shares, to be paid prior to August 21, 1875. At this date the following important committees were filled by election:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—James McCracken, A. Goodsill and Charles Steele.

FINANCE COMMITTEE—N. Goodsill, J. C. Ray and Charles Steele.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—D. H. Hamilton, J. Litteer, J. C. Ray, Charles Steele, D. W. Hamblin, J. H. Jolly, E. T. Smith, W. F. Evans, William Mahan, B. B. Hoover, L. S. Morris and Thomas Cobb.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY—W. F. Evans.

August 21, 1875, at a meeting of the board of directors of the Taylor County Agricultural society, D. H. Hamilton was elected president; W. F. Evans, secretary. E. T. Smith was instructed to circulate a petition to be presented to the board of supervisors, asking an appropriation of five hundred dollars, as provided by law, to aid the agricultural society. September 11, 1875, the sites for wells were located, and work on them was begun soon afterward. The secretary

and treasurer borrowed eight hundred dollars, and secured the same by mortgage on the south twenty acres of the society's grounds. The price of refreshment stands was fixed at two dollars per day, each. Hacks and busses were charged two dollars per day each. A judges' stand was erected under the superintendency of A. J. Litteer.

October 5, 1875, the superintendents of the different divisions were instructed to appoint the awarding committees in their respective departments. Charles Steele got a motion to pass "that the fair ground be rented from November 1, 1875, until August 1, 1876, to be let on the last day of the fair to the highest responsible bidder, for the purpose known on day of sale." This was done for many years, or until the north side was set out in shade trees, since then the hay has been sold or "cut on shares."

October 8, 1875, the price of stands was placed at the following figures.

Warm meals, per day .....	\$ 5.00
Air gun, per day .....	3.00
Swing, per day .....	5.00
Dancing floor, per day .....	10.00
Photograph gallery .....	5.00
Auction stands .....	5.00

These rates are given for the benefit of the curiously inclined, who may desire to compare past and present figures, and note the difference in the character of entertainment, furnished at county fairs, past and present.

The fair of 1875, was held on the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th of October, and its success was a high compliment to its managers, as the following statement will show:

First day's receipts .....	\$220.70
Second day's receipts .....	437.10
Third day's receipts .....	520.56
Fourth day's receipts .....	406.71
Total .....	<u>\$1,585.07</u>

November 13, 1875, the articles of incorporation were adopted. After this it was "Moved that the secretary be authorized to give credit to each of the following named gentlemen: Thomas Cobb, R. A. Moser, E. T. Smith, Daniel Hoover, A. J. Litteer, Josiah Litteer, J. W. Wood, E. Houck, J. C. Mehan, William Mahan, and J. C. Ray, for the sum of eighteen dollars and sixty-three cents, being the amount due each of said parties as their respective distributive shares of the ten acres of land, known as the 'old fair grounds,' as this day apportioned by members of the old society present."

December 4, 1875, William Rutledge, of Marshall township, was awarded ten dollars for the best "field crop" entered in the county. At this meeting the following motion prevailed.

*Resolved*, That all stock subscribed and partially paid to said society, which shall not, on or before the first day of February, 1876, be paid in full to the treasurer of said society, shall be declared forfeited, and such delinquent shares cancelled for nonpayment.



At this meeting the following officers of the society were elected for the ensuing year: president, D. H. Hamilton; vice-president, James McCracken; treasurer, W. F. Evans; board of directors, C. Steele, John C. Ray, Lyman Evans, Thomas Cobb, B. F. Chandler, James McCracken, Josiah Litteer, N. Goodsill, C. B. Pershin and C. C. Mohler; executive committee: A. J. Litteer, W. A. Wysong, and Charles Steele.

June 1, 1876, at a meeting of the society, C. C. Mohler, L. Evans and L. S. Morris were appointed a committee on finance. The treasurer was ordered to tax on fair ground out of first money collected by him. Time for holding the annual fair for 1876 was fixed for October 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th. D. H. Hamilton, W. F. Evans and Alex. John were ordered to prepare a premium list. Thomas Cobb was allowed twenty-five dollars for raising shareholders, and was presented with one share for his services as treasurer.

April 1, 1876, the report of finance committee showed:

Receipts for year 1875 .....	\$4,846.82
Expenditure by treasurer .....	4,780.68

Balance in hands of treasurer .....	66.14
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May 25, 1876, a floral hall was suggested—an improvement much needed, and which for years proved useful and valuable to the society. James McCracken, C. Steele and W. V. King were appointed a committee to draft plans and specifications for a hall, and to receive sealed bids for the erection of the same. The executive committee was allowed two dollars a day, each for time actually employed, and a thousand copies of the premium list ordered printed, to be given to the lowest bidder.

June 13, 1876, the contract for building a floral hall was let to S. W. Beall for the sum of one thousand, one hundred and forty-eight dollars, and July 3rd, it was completed and accepted by the society. It was two stories in height and twenty-four by eighty feet.

July 22, 1876, the board of directors resolved to treat as trespassers, all persons who used the grounds for racing on Sunday.

October 14, 1876, of the week following the fair, the board of directors met, and issued the following statement of the proceeds of the exhibition:

Received from tickets sold .....	\$1,039.99
Received from permits .....	84.75
Received from entries .....	250.90
Received from corn sold .....	2.00

Total .....	\$1,377.64
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At a meeting October 20, 1876, the time for holding the 1877 fair was fixed for the last Wednesday in September, and to continue four days. The secretary was instructed to notify the societies of the adjoining counties of the dates selected.

At the regular meeting, December 2, 1876, the officers of the society were elected: president, D. H. Hamilton; vice-president, James McCracken; treasurer, W. F. Evans; secretary, James Thirkield; corresponding secretary, Lyman

Evans; board of directors, M. C. Cornnett, C. C. Mohler, John Evans, C. B. Pershin, B. F. Chandler, Alex. John, William A. Webb, Charles Steele, John Graff, and William A. Wysong; executive committee, Charles Steele, N. Good-sill and W. A. Wysong.

March 3, 1877, C. C. Mohler, Alex. John, and John Graff were appointed a committee to examine and report upon the condition of the society's finances. A resolution was passed requiring the secretary and treasurer to give bonds in the sum of two thousand dollars each.

March 31, 1877, the committee on the best orchard of one hundred apple trees in the county, reported in favor of S. C. Freeman. The finance committee reported as follows:

Total receipts of treasurer .....	\$2,369.34
Total amount paid out by the treasurer .....	2,372.43
Overpaid .....	\$3.09
The financial condition of the society at this date was as follows:	
Value of grounds .....	\$4,225.00
Value of notes on hand .....	331.37
Total .....	\$4,556.37
LIABILITIES.	
Amount due McConville .....	\$ 980.65
Premium orders not paid .....	80.00
Expense .....	138.93
Total indebtedness .....	\$1,199.58

May 5, 1877, the president and secretary of the society were instructed to mortgage the fair grounds to the Bedford Bank for one thousand and fourteen dollars.

The receipts for the fair for the year 1877 were one thousand, six hundred and nineteen dollars and forty-six cents.

October 13, 1877, the president and secretary were authorized to procure a loan of five hundred dollars for ninety days, to apply upon the indebtedness of the society, which they accordingly did.

At the regular meeting of the stockholders, held the first Saturday in December, 1877, the following officers were chosen for the year 1878: president, James McCracken; vice president, C. Steele; treasurer, W. F. Evans; secretary, J. W. Thirkield; corresponding secretary, Alex. John; board of directors, W. A. Wysong, John Graff, Daniel Leonard, Alex. John, C. B. Pershin, M. C. Connett, B. F. Chandler, J. W. Wood, J. M. Harrell and J. W. Paul; executive committee, Charles Steele, W. A. Wysong and W. F. Evans; superintendent of grounds, Charles Steele.

April 20, 1878, J. M. Thirkield tendered his resignation as secretary of the society, and H. P. Long was chosen in his place. The secretary was instructed to collect all outstanding notes due the society and apply the proceeds upon its indebtedness.



June 8, 1878, the society borrowed two hundred dollars, and two more wells were sunk on the fair grounds.

August 31, 1878, at a meeting of the directors, John Graff offered the following resolution which was carried:

*Resolved*, That the executive committee be instructed to build an ampitheater, thirty by seventy-five feet, on the fair grounds of the society, provided the same can be built for a sum not to exceed five hundred dollars, the same to be built in a good substantial manner on the following terms: one-half to be paid this fall (1878) and one-half to be paid after the fair in 1879.

The fair was held September 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th. The *Argus* and the *Republican* each printed daily papers during the fair which were creditable publications. The receipts from the fair were as follows:

Receipts from entries .....	\$204.35
Amount received from stands .....	118.00
Receipts at gates .....	805.87
Receipts from quarter stretch badges .....	5.75

October 5, 1878, the treasurer was instructed to pay lady superintendents one dollar each per day for the last three days. A loan of five hundred dollars for ninety days was desired and the president and the secretary were instructed to procure the same.

October 19, 1878, W. F. Evans and Charles Steele reported that they had borrowed six hundred dollars of Albina King (a colored woman), for one year at ten per cent interest.

December 7, 1878, the society met for the election of officers. Treasurer W. F. Evans reported the indebtedness at nine hundred dollars. The officers elected were as follows: president, James McCracken; vice-president, B. B. Hoover; treasurer, Alex. John; secretary, W. F. Evans; corresponding secretary, John Graff; board of directors, J. W. Wood, Charles Steele, W. A. Wysong, B. F. Chandler, D. H. Hamilton, L. W. Fairbanks, Milo Lathrop, C. B. Pershin, George Van Houten and George H. Powers; executive committee, Charles Steele, W. A. Wysong, and L. W. Fairbanks.

March 1, 1879, the directors fixed upon September 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th, as the dates for the annual fair of 1879. George H. Powers introduced a motion, which was adopted, giving the veteran soldiers of the Civil war, free use of the fair grounds, for a reunion to be held May 28, 29, and 30, 1879. L. Mohler was issued an order for a premium on the best five acres of wheat in the county.

June 7, 1879, the society borrowed three hundred of the Bedford Bank.

September 29, 1879, the secretary reported the receipts of the fair just closed at one thousand, seven hundred and fifty dollars and ten cents.

October 4, 1879, the president, vice president, superintendent of grounds, and the gentleman-superintendents of divisions were allowed one dollar per day, each, for time served on the ground.

December 6, 1879 the treasurer's report showed the total indebtedness of the society to be one thousand, one hundred and twenty-six dollars and fifty-one cents. The following officers were chosen: president, B. F. Chandler, vice president, L. Evans; treasurer, Alex. John; secretary, W. F. Evans; corresponding secretary, H. P. Long; board of directors, W. A. Wysong, C. C. Mohler, D. H.

Hamilton, J. J. Laws, James McCracken, Charles Steele, C. B. Pershin, J. C. Ray, William Cobb and N. Goodsill; executive committee, J. J. Laws, J. W. Wood and James McCracken.

The time for holding the annual fair for 1880, was fixed for the 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th days of September. The premiums for competition on orchards, vineyards, nurseries and field crops were stricken out. It was, also, agreed that the meetings of the board of directors hereafter should be held on the last Saturday of each month, at 1:00 o'clock P. M.

At a meeting of the board, January 31, 1880, the date of holding the annual fair was changed to September 22, and to continue four days. The rules of the National Trotting association were adopted.

July 24, 1880, a bicycle race was made part of the premium list—first premium, five dollars; second premium, three dollars.

The receipts of the fair of 1880 were one thousand, four hundred and sixty dollars and seventy-nine cents. The total number of entries were seven hundred and eighty-nine, exceeding the number of any previous year by one hundred and twenty-eight. The total number of premiums awarded amounted to nine hundred dollars and seventy-five cents. The date for the fair of 1881 was fixed for September 13, and to continue five days.

September 25, 1880, B. F. Chandler, president of the society, Alex. John, treasurer and C. C. Mohler, director, tendered their resignations on account of the admittance of "wheels of fortune" and other gambling devices to the fair grounds.

J. J. Laws moved that their resignation be *not* accepted. The motion prevailed.

William Cobb offered a resolution that the permits for all gambling devices be revoked, on the grounds that they had been granted without the concurrence of a majority of the board. Mr. Cobb's motion was lost. B. F. Chandler, Alex. John, William Cobb and C. C. Mohler then gave notice that they would no longer serve in official capacity on the board.

November 27, 1880, nine hundred dollars were borrowed by the society of Charles Steele.

December 4, 1880, the society met for the election of officers for the year 1881. The following is the result: president, Charles Steele; vice president, Lyman Evans; treasurer, H. P. Long; secretary, W. F. Evans; corresponding secretary, P. C. King; board of directors, L. W. Fairbanks, James McCracken, H. McConville, A. J. Thompson, A. J. Sowers, W. A. Wysong, D. Hoover, William Cobb, C. C. Mohler and George H. Powers; executive committee, James McCracken, W. A. Wysong and A. J. McMurtry.

Seven members of the board were made to constitute a quorum, thus changing article two of the constitution. Mr. John Laws offered this resolution. Mr. Laws also succeeded in having the office of superintendent of the grounds dispensed with, and the duties of that place put in the hands of the executive committee.

January 3, 1881, the society's indebtedness was reported to be one thousand and thirty-two dollars and seventy-eight cents. At this time there were on hand:



Old notes, exclusive of interest .....	\$203.12
New notes for stock taken in 1880 .....	250.00
State appropriation for 1881 .....	200.00
Cash in hands of secretary and treasurer .....	98.57

This would reduce the indebtedness to about three hundred and fifty dollars. Five gentlemen and three ladies were appointed to prepare the premium list for 1881, which was a new departure. Heretofore the ladies had been ignored in the preparation of the premium list.

January 20, 1881, the "speed ring" was placed under the exclusive control of a superintendent, and L. W. Fairbanks was chosen for the place.

March 26, 1881, a meeting of the stockholders was held for the purpose of reducing the number of directors necessary to constitute a quorum, but there was no change made. The number was left at seven, as before.

September 3, 1881, a contract was made with L. Pershin to build an amphitheater twenty-four by eighty feet. He was paid nine hundred and ninety-three dollars for the work.

The receipts of the fair for 1881 were one thousand, five hundred and fifty-one dollars. The premiums awarded amounting to one thousand, six hundred and fifty dollars. The indebtedness of the society was now about two thousand dollars. The fair was held September 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th. On the sixteenth snow fell to the depth of six inches and in consequence there was no attendance at the fair that day.

At a meeting of the board of directors, September 19, it was decided to open the fair of 1882 on the second Tuesday in September.

From the above date until the election of F. N. Lewis, who is the present secretary, there is no record. J. J. Laws, who preceded Mr. Lewis as secretary, destroyed or permitted the records while in his possession to be destroyed so we are informed, so the memory of men who have been at various times associated with the society is our only source of information. The society had its ups and downs, suffered financial losses from the failure of receipts to pay expenditures, until the annual exhibit was discontinued.

Then the whole thing was reorganized under the name of the Taylor County Fair association, and fairs have been held annually ever since, usually about the first week in September. These fairs are well attended and liberal premiums are offered, which brings a good exhibit of stock and farm products. This year the association had an additional attraction in the Thirteenth United States Infantry, from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, which camped here the last day of the fair and remained over Sunday. The regiment was on its way to Des Moines to take part in a military tournament to be held there. This was quite a treat to the citizens of the county, many of them having never seen so many soldiers before.

Various men who have made the fair in the later years are W. F. Evans, who for many years acted as secretary and did a vast amount of work to make the annual exhibit a success. C. M. Steele was always, during his life, connected with the association. J. J. Clark has at various times been connected with the association in an official way; George Keith, lately deceased; Joseph Heasley,

G. M. Hadley, W. D. Blakemore, George Van Houten, J. J. Laws and Charles Nelson, Sr.

The present officers are: president, G. W. Hook; vice-president, Dr. A. A. Archer; secretary, T. M. Lewis and treasurer, F. E. Payton. The board of directors consists of the following gentlemen: R. W. Thompson, J. H. Minor, J. H. Dougherty, Harlan Montgomery, E. C. Dowlin, Joseph Heasley, C. A. Hall and Clarence Keith.

## MILITARY.

### THE CIVIL WAR.

Elsewhere in this volume, in the historical sketch of the state, will be found reference to the part the state took in the war for the maintenance of the Union. In this article, we wish to speak more specifically of certain regiments, with which citizens of this county were identified. Our readers are familiar with the events leading up to the most sanguinary struggle of modern times. The election of Lincoln in 1860, which was accepted in the south as a signal for war, the continuance of strained relations between the two sections, up to April 12th, when the first gun fired upon Fort Sumter, inaugurated the war. Now events rushed thick and fast, for the war had actually begun. Men in the north, who thought the south was idly boasting, stood appalled, but from the south came the bustle and preparation for war, which awakened the north to the terrible emergency. April 15, 1861, President Lincoln issued the following proclamation:

“WHEREAS, The laws of the United States, have been and now are opposed in several states by combinations too powerful to be suppressed in an ordinary way, I therefore call upon the militia of the several states of the Union, to the aggregate number of seventy-five thousand, to suppress said combination and execute the laws. I appeal to all loyal citizens for state aid in this effort to maintain the law's integrity, national union, perpetuity of popular government, and to redress wrongs already long enough endured.” I deem it proper to say that the first service assigned to the forces hereby called forth, will probably be to repossess the forts, places and property, which have been seized from the Union, and in every event, the utmost care will be observed consistent with the object aforesaid, to avoid any devastation, any destruction of or interference with property or any disturbance of peaceful citizens of any part of the country, and I hereby command the persons comprising the combinations aforesaid, to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes within twenty days from this date.

Deeming that the present condition of public affairs present an extraordinary occasion, I do hereby, by virtue of the power in me vested by the constitution, convene both houses of congress. The senators and representatives are, therefore, summoned to assemble at their respective chambers at twelve o'clock noon, on Thursday the fourth day of July next, then and there to consider and determine such measures as in their wisdom the public safety and interest seem to demand.



Done at the City of Washington, this 15th day of April, one thousand, eight hundred and sixty-one, and of the independence of the United States, the eighty-fifth.

By the President, ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

WM. H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State*.

When this proclamation was issued by the president, the excitement, which had long been at fever heat, broke forth into unexampled patriotism. The whole north set to work with energy to prepare for the struggle before it, and the people of this county were not slow in coming to their country's aid.

Two days after the president's call, the governor of the state issued the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, has made requisition upon the executive of the State of Iowa, for one regiment of militia to aid the federal government in enforcing its laws and suppressing rebellion.

*Now therefore*, I, Samuel J. Kirkwood, Governor of the State of Iowa, do issue this proclamation and hereby call upon the militia of this state immediately to form in the different counties volunteer companies with a view of entering the active military service of the United States, for the purpose aforesaid. The regiment at present required, will consist of ten companies of at least seventy-eight men each, including one captain, and two lieutenants to be elected by each company. Under the present requisition, only one regiment can be accepted and the companies accepted must hold themselves in readiness for duty by the twentieth of next month, May, at farthest. If a sufficient number of companies are tendered, their services may be required. If more companies are formed and reported than can be received under the present call, their services will be required in the event of another requisition upon the state. The nation is in peril. A fearful attempt is being made to overthrow the constitution and dis-sever the Union. The aid of every loyal citizen is invoked to sustain the general government. For the honor of our state, let the requirement of the president be cheerfully and promptly met.

SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD.

IOWA CITY, April 17, 1861.

This proclamation met with general response and rapid enlistments. Politics was forgotten, men of all parties vied with each other in their alacrity, in offering their services in support of the government. The sound of the drum and fife, and the tread of men filled the country with the bustle of war, and the spirit of 1776 found expression again, as her sons prepared to go forth to war. Many who placed their names on the enrollment list performed their last great act, for they died on the field of battle. The war was the sole topic of discussion. Men left their plows and women their household duties to learn the news, talk over the situation and counsel with their neighbors. The women became animated with the war spirit, and bade their husbands and sons go to the defense of the flag. Many a Taylor county soldier went forth to battle, cheered and sustained by the patriotic words of mother, sister or sweetheart. Many a husband went with the blessing and "God speed thee," of the faithful wife, and mothers gave their sons to do battle for home and country.





G. A. R. POST, BEDFORD



STREET SCENE IN BEDFORD





There was work to be done at home and the noble women of the country were not slow to perceive how and when they might be useful. There were sanitary stores to be provided, lint and bandages to be prepared, a thousand little conveniences to men in the field to be gathered and sent. All this they did and more. While husbands, sons, and lovers were in the field, they at home, were praying for the success of those who bore arms in the loyal cause. Letters were to be written, taking words of comfort and cheer to the sick and wounded, or inspiring renewed zeal and courage in the hearts of the boys weary with the battle and toilsome marches. And last, but not least, were the homes to be kept in order for the coming of peace. Many buried their fondest hopes, their greatest joy, months before the dawn of peace and the glad news that the flag they loved so well had been redeemed, though at the cost of the best blood of the nation. If there comes an occasional pang when the memory of loved ones steals in the mind, as come these recollections will, it must be remembered that these were all they had to give, a gift that even the dawn of peace cannot recompense. But so long as the nation endures the heroes of Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, the Memorable March from Atlanta to the sea, and a hundred other bloody struggles, shall be remembered when those who founded nations shall have been forgotten.

In the roster of each regiment given below, the facts relative to what became of each person enlisting and all promotions or reductions to ranks, are given so far as known, and as fully as the most authoritative documents will admit. No statements are made save on the authority of the official reports of the adjutant general of the State of Iowa, and may hence be relied upon as correct. Where no after statement is made, it will be understood that the person was mustered out with his regiment.

#### HISTORY OF THE FOURTH IOWA.

This regiment was mustered in with G. M. Dodge of Council Bluffs, as Colonel. August 24, 1861, the regiment went to Rolla, Missouri, where it remained until January 22, 1862. From that date until the 14th of July, 1862, when it arrived at Helena, Arkansas, the regiment was almost continually on the march, forming a part of the army of southwest. Its first engagement was at Pea Ridge, Arkansas. March 6, 7 and 8, 1862. The regiment acquitted itself bravely in this celebrated battle standing a most terrific fire of grape, cannister, solid shot and shell for more than three hours. So grand a stand did the gallant fourth make, that the general commanding, said of it in his official report: "This regiment won immortal honors." It lost in this battle fully one-third of all actually engaged. Their next engagement was that of Chickasaw Bayou, December 28, and 29, 1862. On the 10th and 11th of January, 1863, the regiment was in the battle of Arkansas Post. After this last battle, the regiment returned to the front of Vicksburg, reaching Young's Point, January 22, 1863. The regiment lay at this point until April 2d, when it was ordered to Greenville, a point on the Mississippi, one hundred and fifty miles farther up, and thence it went to form a portion of the force engaged in the raid up the Deer Creek Valley. On May 2d, the regiment started to participate in the active campaign against



Vicksburg, arriving on the eighteenth, having been delayed two days at Jackson, to destroy the fort. On July 4th, the regiment was again detailed to Jackson, arriving in time to participate in that hard fought battle. From July 29th to until September 22d, the Fourth lay in camp at Black river, fourteen miles in the rear of Vicksburg, when on the last mentioned date, it embarked on a steamboat for Memphis, Tennessee. From this point, the regiment set out on the campaign to Northern Georgia, marching by way of Corinth, Tuscumbia, Eastport and Iuka, to Chattanooga, which place it reached November 23d. Weary and travel worn as it was, nevertheless, it participated in the battle of Lookout Mountain, on the 24th, that of Missionary Ridge on the 25th, and again in the battle of Ringgold on the 27th. On the third day of the following month, December, the regiment went into camp at Bridgeport, Alabama, and thence it went to Woodville, remaining until February 26th, when it started home on veteran furlough. In April, of the same year, 1864, the Fourth again took the field, outfitting at Nashville, to engage in the campaign against Atlanta, Georgia. From that date, the campaign was one of continual fighting and weary marches. After the fall of Atlanta, the regiment went with Sherman to the sea, thence through the Carolinas to Washington, and finally to Louisville, Kentucky, where it was mustered out, July 24, 1865, and was paid and disbanded at Davenport, Iowa.

For the benefit of descendants of the gallant boys from this county, who were members of this famous regiment, it is eminently fitting that the address of General Williamson to this regiment should here be given. It is as follows:

#### HEADQUARTERS—DISTRICT OF ST. LOUIS.

ST. LOUIS, MO., JULY 6, 1865.

*Fellow Soldiers of the Fourth Iowa Infantry:* Having received the appointment of brigadier-general, and been assigned to duty in another quarter, my official connection with you has ceased. In taking leave of you, I deem it my duty to briefly allude to our past association as soldiers. Four years ago we left our homes and loved ones to fight for the Union cause. Then we numbered one thousand men. We were undisciplined and knew nothing of war, but we did know that our country needed our services and that was enough. Since then, we have had more than three hundred added to our ranks. Today, our whole number is less than four hundred. Where are the one thousand of our missing companions? Most of them have fallen on the battlefields from Pea Ridge to Columbia. Some have been discharged on account of wounds received in battle, but the saddest thing of all remains to be told; some were starved to death in southern prison pens. You, the survivors of our glorious old regiment, will, I hope very soon be permitted to go home and enter again upon the duties and assume the responsibilities of citizens of the republic, and of yours the young State of Iowa, for which you have helped to make so glorious a name during the war.

I need not say to men like you, who have fought on more than thirty different battlefields; who under Curtis, wore immortal honors at Pea Ridge, and made the memorable march through Missouri and Arkansas in mid-summer, who were ordered by General Grant to place "First at Chickasaw Bayou" on your banners; who were under Sherman at Chickasaw Bayou and Arkansas Post; who were under Grant through the entire campaign of Vicksburg, including



Jackson and Brandon; who marched from Vicksburg to Chattanooga under Sherman; who fought with Hooker above the clouds at Lookout mountain and were with him at Missionary Ridge and Ringgold; who were under Sherman through the entire Atlanta campaign and participated in every battle, and who again under their great leader, made the famous march to the sea, and thence to Washington to be good citizens. Whatever may be said to the contrary, none can appreciate peace and civil government better than those who have so freely offered their lives in war to secure these blessings.

In conclusion, I have only to add that I thank my lucky star, that my fortunes as a soldier were cast with you, and I thank you for my "stars." May that kind providence which has preserved and directed you through so many hardships and dangers, guide you in the path of honor and glory, in the future as in the past.

Your fellow-soldier,

J. A. WILLIAMSON.

COMPANY K.

George W. Friedly, Bedford, first lieutenant, enlisted August 10, 1861, mustered in, August 31, 1861; resigned May 11, 1862. Persens R. Crisp, Bedford, second lieutenant, enlisted August 18, 1861, mustered in, August 31, 1861; promoted from first sergeant, March 19, 1863. N. D. King, Bedford, first sergeant from private, enlisted July 20, 1861, mustered in, April 29, 1862; wounded at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, March 7, 1862. B. Arteburn, second sergeant, enlisted August 18, 1861, mustered in, August 31, 1861; discharged February 9, 1864, at Woodville, Alabama, for disability. Joshua Shay, Bedford, fourth sergeant, enlisted August 18, 1861, mustered in, August 31, 1861; reduced to ranks, February 5, 1862. William M. Helmick, Bedford, enlisted August 18, 1861, mustered in, August 31, 1861; promoted to second corporal and to first corporal, May 12, 1862. R. B. Rockwell, Bedford, enlisted August 18, 1861, mustered in, August 31, 1861; promoted to third corporal February 5, 1862; wounded in knee at Chickasaw Bayou, Mississippi. Charles Nelson, Bedford, fifth corporal, enlisted August 18, 1861, mustered in, August 31, 1861; captured August 11, 1863, at Black River bridge, Mississippi. Orion S. Brooks, Bedford, sixth corporal, mustered in, August 31, 1862, as private; promoted to eighth corporal February 13, 1862. *Privates*: Alvin M. Brooks, Bedford, enlisted August 18, 1861, mustered in, August 31, 1861; wounded severely in leg at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, March 7, 1862. Robert Burroughs, Bedford, enlisted August 18, 1861, mustered in with all privates, August 31, 1861; discharged on account of sickness, May 15, 1862. Jackson Baker, Bedford, enlisted August 18, 1861; Richard Ballow, Bedford, enlisted August 18, 1861; N. J. Blake, Bedford, discharged January 8, 1862, for disability; George W. Ballow, Bedford, enlisted August 18, 1861, discharged January 15, 1863, at St. Louis, Missouri, no cause assigned; Thomas J. Cook, enlisted August 18, 1861; Amos Cumming, enlisted in August, 1861, wounded severely in the hand at Chickasaw Bayou, Mississippi, December 29, 1862; W. A. Dunn, Memory, enlisted August 18, 1861; George W. Dunn, Memory, enlisted August 18, 1861, wounded in the arm so as to necessitate amputation, at Chickasaw Bayou, December 29, 1862, discharged at



St. Louis, Missouri, February 16, 1863; Squire Dunn, no date of enlistment, discharged October 2, 1862, for disability at St. Louis, Missouri; F. M. Dials, enlisted August 18, 1861; Granville Dale, enlisted in August, 1861, discharged by order of general court martial, July 15, 1862; John A. Ellison, enlisted August 18, 1861, severely wounded December 29, 1862 at Chickasaw Bayou, Mississippi, discharged at Black River, Mississippi, September 9, 1863; John F. Elliott, enlisted August 18, 1861, discharged May 15, 1862; Elisha Friel, enlisted August 5, 1861, died of measles at Rolla, Missouri, December 19, 1862; J. W. Fuller, no date of enlistment; J. E. Ford, no date of enlistment; Isaac Ford, no date of enlistment, died of pneumonia at Rolla, Missouri, January 2, 1862; Asher Helm, enlisted August 18, 1861, promoted to seventh corporal; Byron Helm, enlisted August 18, 1861; Ahart Hash, enlisted August 18, 1861, discharged August 1, 1863, at Black River, Mississippi; George R. Helmer, no date of enlistment, wounded at Pea Ridge, March 7, 1862, discharged at Helena, October 1, 1862; David S. Helmer, no date of enlistment, died at Yazoo River, Mississippi, December 30, 1863; John Hahmaukratt, no date of enlistment; Peter Binney, enlisted August 18, 1861; William Kinney, enlisted November 2, 1861, wounded slightly in the hand at Vicksburg, Mississippi, March 19, 1863; John H. Kidney, no date of enlistment, discharged October 2, 1864, at St. Louis, Missouri, for disability; Valentine King, no date of enlistment, wounded severely in the knee at Pea Ridge, promoted to first sergeant, April 27, 1862, killed in action at Missionary Ridge, Tennessee, November 25, 1863; George McCorady, no date of enlistment, died of measles, February 21, 1862; S. B. Marvin, no date of enlistment, died of pneumonia at Cassville, Missouri, April 3, 1862; Abraham McFarland, enlisted October 26, 1861; M. R. Nevins, no date of enlistment, discharged August 12, 1862, at Black River, Mississippi; Edward A. Richardson, no date of enlistment, killed in action at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, March 7, 1862; Ira Sleath, enlisted August 18, 1861, wounded severely in the leg at Pea Ridge, March 7, 1862, died August 16, 1863; Watson Sickles, no date of enlistment, died at St. Louis, Missouri, of disease, November 28, 1862; J. B. Townsend, no date of enlistment; Alexander Underwood, no date of enlistment, discharged at St. Louis, Missouri, June 20, 1862; Ferdinand Verges, enlisted August 18, 1861, wounded in the arm at Pea Ridge, March 7, 1862; Allen Woods, enlisted August, 1861, wounded in arm at Pea Ridge, March 7, 1862, died at Young's Point, Louisiana, of disease, February 7, 1863; Lucius Wood, no date of enlistment, discharged June 18, 1862; William West, no date of enlistment, died of measles at Rolla, Missouri, January 7, 1862; W. C. Wright, enlisted July, 1861.

#### ADDITIONAL ENLISTMENTS.

D. W. Ball, enlisted November 25, 1861, discharged for protracted illness, May 25, 1862; H. M. Barr, enlisted December 10, 1861, died at St. Louis, Missouri, October 8, 1862; S. S. Cannell, enlisted October 5, 1861, died at his home in Bedford; A. L. Cobb, enlisted November 25, 1861, wounded in the foot at Pea Ridge, March 7, 1862, and December 29, 1862, slightly at Chickasaw Bayou; E. D. Helmick, enlisted December 14, 1861, died at St. Louis, Missouri,



February 14, 1863; G. V. Lane, enlisted November 25, 1861; S. A. Stevens, enlisted November 25, 1861, died of measles at Rolla, Missouri, January 20, 1862. This company was enrolled in the counties of Page and Taylor. The governor of the state ordered it into quarters July 20, 1861. It was mustered into the service of the United States by Captain Lewis Merrill, U. S. A. at St. Louis, August 31, 1861. The proclamation by the President of the United States, authorizing its muster into the service, is dated May 3, 1861.

The following are listed in the Fourth Infantry as recruits, drafted men and substitutes, whose companies were unknown at the adjutant-general's office: T. A. H. Adams, Ross township, enlisted March 31, 1864, mustered in, April 16, 1864; David A. Cole, Ross township, enlisted March 25, 1864, mustered in, April 16, 1864; Benjamin F. Lambert, Ross township, enlisted March 23, 1864, mustered in, April 16, 1864; A. M. Patch, Ross township, enlisted March 25, 1864, mustered in, April 16, 1864; J. B. Varner, Ross township, enlisted March 25, 1864, mustered in, April 16, 1864.

#### HISTORY OF THE TWENTY-NINTH.

The Twenty-ninth went to the front early in 1863, being a part of the army of the southwest. Its first general engagement was in the battle at Helena, Arkansas, July 4, 1863. It had previous to this time seen an occasional skirmish, but the occasion to first test its courage and patriotism, was on this independence day of 1863, at Helena. How this regiment acquitted itself on this memorable occasion, is but told in the report of the commanding officer, as follows:

#### HEADQUARTERS OF THE TWENTY-NINTH IOWA INFANTRY.

HELENA, ARKANSAS, JULY 6, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to make the following report of the part taken in the engagement of the fourth instant by my regiment. My men were drawn-up in line of battle at day light, and at half past four o'clock a. m., in pursuance of orders from Colonel Samuel A. Rice, commanding second brigade, we marched across the bottom at double quick, to a position on the Sterling road. Upon reaching the point designated, I found that the enemy occupied the crest of the hills with their skirmishers. North of Battery A, commanding my position, I immediately sent forward two companies of skirmishers to dislodge and drive them back, but finding them too strongly posted, I continued to reinforce the line until eight companies were deployed.

In the meantime, the enemy had placed a battery of two guns in position, with which they opened a brisk fire and moved rapidly upon us, cheering and exulting as they advanced, being partially shielded from view by a fog which covered the hills at that moment. Our skirmishers met them with a galling and incessant fire, under which they gradually fell back, resolutely contesting every inch of ground as they retired. Our skirmishers advanced steadily and cautiously and having gained the crest of the hill previously occupied by the enemy, compelled him to abandon his guns which, after several ineffectual attempts, he subsequently recovered and withdrew, leaving one cannon on the field. My men



were under severe fire for more than five hours, and it affords me the greatest pleasure to speak of both officers and men in terms of the highest commendation for their coolness and bravery during the entire action. I saw no flinching or wavering during the day. It is proper to add that several of my officers and quite a number of my men who were excused from duty in consequence of disability, left their quarters and joined their respective commands when the signal gun was fired.

Any invidious distinctions among the members of my command would not be admissible in this report, but I would not do justice to an accomplished officer should I fail to acknowledge the efficient service of Lieutenant Colonel R. F. Patterson during the action, and the special obligations I am under for the thorough instruction previously given by him, to both officers and men in the responsible duties and obligations of the soldier; the importance of which instruction was so forcibly illustrated on the fifth instant.

I regret to report that during the engagement the loss in my regiment was seven killed and twenty-four wounded—some of them mortally—two of whom have since died, and many of them severely. Among the number are some of my best and bravest men. The enemy's loss it is not possible to state definitely, as he succeeded in moving many of them from the field. We buried fourteen of his dead, found the graves of seventeen more, and brought one of his wounded from the field.

I have the honor to be, Colonel, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS H. BENTON, JR.,

Col. 24. Iowa Infantry.

To Samuel A. Rice, Colonel., commanding 13th Division,  
13th Army Corps.

The other important battles in which the Twenty-ninth was engaged, were those of Arkansas Post and Spanish Fort. Throughout all the service which the regiment saw, it sustained the character given it in the report of the commanding officer. It was mustered out at New Orleans, August 15, 1865. Below is the regimental roster:

#### COMPANY F.

James Brooks, captain, commissioned December 1, 1862, enlisted August 9, 1862, mustered in, December 1, 1862, resigned March 15, 1863. L. B. Nash, first lieutenant, commissioned December 1, 1862, enlisted August 9, 1862, mustered in, December 1, 1862, promoted to the captaincy March 16, 1863. Ezekiel Rose, first sergeant, enlisted August 9, mustered in, November 12, 1862, appointed August 20, 1862, transferred to invalid corps January 15, 1864; John Clark, second sergeant, appointed August 21, 1862, enlisted August 9, 1862, discharged January 1, 1864 at St. Louis for disability; T. S. Rigby, third sergeant, enlisted August 9, 1862, appointed August 21, 1862, died of disease at St. Louis April 25, 1863; W. F. Evans, fourth sergeant, enlisted August 9, 1862, appointed August 21, 1862; B. W. Nordannan, fifth sergeant, appointed August 21, 1862. The date of enlistment of all remaining officers and privates will be understood



as August 9, 1862, unless otherwise given. The date of the muster in of the entire company, except the commissioned officers, was November 12, 1862. R. H. Patrick, first corporal, appointed August 21, 1862, wounded in action at Spanish Fort, March 29, 1865; A. F. Hansar, second corporal, appointed August 21, 1862, died February 3, 1863, at Columbus, Kentucky, of disease; S. J. Dallison, third corporal, appointed August 21, 1862, wounded in action at Spanish Fort, March 29, 1865; M. B. Underwood, fourth corporal, appointed August 21, 1862; W. Caplinger, fifth corporal, appointed August 21, 1862, discharged May 31, 1865 at Greenville, Louisiana, for disability; Squire Robinson, sixth corporal, appointed August 21, 1862; Robert Kerr, seventh corporal, appointed August 21, 1862, transferred to invalid corps, November 1, 1863; Alex. John, eighth corporal, appointed August 21, 1862. W. W. Clark, musician; William Wilkins, musician. *Privates*—William Arnold; John Barkley, Lexington; Nelson Beall, Lexington; J. Z. Berry, Lexington, died February 8, 1863, at Helena, Arkansas, of disease; B. F. Caste, Memory; E. B. Cade, Memory, died at Little Rock, Arkansas, of disease, April 16, 1865; J. H. Cade, Memory; J. F. Cobb, Bedford, killed in action at Helena, Arkansas, July 4, 1863; William Cobb, Bedford; G. M. Damewood, Memory; R. S. Damewood, Memory; John Elkins, Memory; W. H. Emerick, Memory, captured April 30, 1864, at Jenkin's Ferry, Arkansas; John L. Emerick, Siam; Edward Emery, Bedford; J. J. Foreman, Bedford; John T. Ford, Memory, captured April 30, 1864, at Jenkin's Ferry, Arkansas; Samuel Gaut, Siam, discharged at New Orleans, Louisiana, May 13, 1865, for disability; G. M. Gillette, Lexington; W. A. Grantham, Bedford, died August 28, at Camden, Arkansas, while a prisoner of war, having been captured April 30, 1864, at Jenkin's Ferry, Arkansas; A. J. Guill, Bedford, discharged March 20, 1863, at St. Louis, Missouri, for disability; J. G. Hamilton, Lexington; S. F. Hann, Bedford, transferred to invalid corps at Davenport, September 3, 1863; A. N. Hanks, Gravity; L. D. Helm, Bedford; A. G. Hicks, Gravity; J. N. Hillyer, Platteville, discharged for disability at Davenport, May 16, 1865; John Holladay, Siam; Stephen Hunt, Lexington, died of disease, June 19, 1863, at Keokuk, Iowa; A. Jenks, Lexington, died of disease, March 20, 1863, at Memphis, Tennessee; Vernon Jenks, Lexington, died of disease, February 24, 1863, at Helena, Arkansas; William Kemery, Bedford; J. C. Kysor, Bedford, discharged at Helena, Arkansas in May, 1863, for disability; M. V. King, Platteville; John F. Lewis, Bedford, captured April 24, 1864 at Marks Mill, Arkansas; John Luellen, Bedford, died of disease at Helena, Arkansas, July 26, 1863; George A. Madden, Hawleyville, died of disease at St. Louis, Missouri, May 31, 1863; Martin Miller, Bedford, transferred to company K.; Frank McFarland, Siam, died of disease, April 15, 1863, at Helena, Arkansas; T. T. McKimson, Lexington; P. H. Nelson, Lexington; E. J. Oxley, Siam; A. H. Owens, Bedford; William Pace, Bedford, died of disease, April 12, 1863, at Helena, Arkansas; E. A. Pace, Bedford; John W. Pitzer, Bedford; James Roy, Bedford, transferred to veteran reserve corps, July 1, 1864; Henry Roy, Bedford, died of disease at Helena, Arkansas, February 22, 1863; William Reed, Bedford; Jacob Ridgely, Bedford, captured April 30, 1864, at Jenkin's Ferry, Arkansas, enlisted November 1, 1862; W. H. Rose, Bedford, died of disease at Helena, Arkansas, April 27, 1863; John F. Salsbury, Bedford, died of disease, May 5, 1863, at Helena, Ar-



kansas; S. Swivens, Bedford; M. Sowles, Bedford, transferred to veteran reserve corps at St. Louis, Missouri, May 11, 1864; S. S. Thomas, Bedford; Wesley Underwood, Bedford, discharged at New Orleans, Louisiana for disability, March 15, 1865; Lemuel Underwood, Bedford, discharged for disability at Little Rock, Arkansas, June 8, 1865; F. E. Walker, Bedford; Israel Wagoner, Bedford, died of disease, October 31, 1863, at Little Rock, Arkansas, February 25, 1863; Jason L. Wight, Bedford, discharged for disability, July 29, 1865, at New Orleans, Louisiana; Joseph J. Woods, Platteville, transferred to invalid corps, January 15, 1864; John P. Wright, Bedford; George W. Wallace, Bedford, enlisted November 10, 1861.

#### ADDITIONAL ENLISTMENTS.

Lorenzo Allen, Siam, enlisted December 18, 1862, mustered in December 24, 1862, died of disease at Helena, Arkansas, February 24, 1864; Jeremiah Beall, Bedford, enlisted November 10, 1862, mustered in December 24, 1862; William Hatfield, Bedford, enlisted December 13, 1862, mustered in December 24, 1862; George R. Helmer, Bedford, enlisted December 10, 1862, mustered in, December 24, 1862, died of disease at Pine Bluffs, Arkansas, November 15, 1863; John W. Hicks, Bedford, enlisted December 15, 1862, mustered in, December 24, 1862, wounded in the abdomen at Helena, Arkansas, July 4, 1863, of which wound he subsequently died, no date of death; Elisha Parker, Platteville, enlisted December 10, 1862, mustered in, December 24, 1862, captured at Jenkin's Ferry, Arkansas, April 30, 1864, died of disease at Bedford, April 8, 1865; T. Winesfordner, Bedford, enlisted December 13, 1862, mustered in, December 24, 1862, died of disease at Helena, Arkansas, February 8, 1863; Ozro J. Leonard, Nodaway township, enlisted December 25, 1863; died April 23, 1864 of disease at Camden, Arkansas; L. A. McDonald, Clayton township, enlisted December 26, 1863; J. S. Roynor, Mason township, enlisted December 26, 1863, captured at Camden, Arkansas, April 26, 1864; E. W. Reeder, Marshall township, enlisted December 25, 1863, captured April 30, at Jenkin's Ferry, Arkansas; J. I. Wilkins, Benton township, enlisted December 19, 1863, captured April 30, 1864, at Jenkin's Ferry, Arkansas; W. H. Beau, enlisted and mustered in December 23, 1863; S. D. Delong, Clayton township, enlisted and mustered in February 8, 1864; W. H. Hutchinson, Polk township, enlisted and mustered in, December 27, 1863; John M. Houck, Benton township, enlisted and mustered in February 17, 1864; F. B. Hahankratt, Benton township, enlisted and mustered in, February 20, 1864; T. Hillis, Nodaway township, enlisted December 25, 1863, mustered in January 24, 1864; W. G. Long, Benton township, enlisted and mustered in February 23, 1864; James McFarland, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in, December 23, 1863, died at Helena, Arkansas, July 18, 1864; C. H. Nelson, Benton township, enlisted December 28, 1863, mustered in January 23, 1864; D. W. Rankin, Benton township, enlisted and mustered in, February 22, 1863; R. G. Simmons, Polk township, enlisted and mustered in December 20, 1863, captured April 30, and died August 4, 1864; R. Salin, Benton township, enlisted December 19, 1863, mustered in, January 23, 1864; Alexander Webb, Ben-



ton township, enlisted and mustered in February 22, 1864, died at Little Rock, Arkansas, July 11, 1864; James B. Wallace, Clayton township, enlisted and mustered in February 8, 1864.

This company was enrolled in the county of Taylor, ordered into quarters by the governor, September 5, 1862, and mustered in at Council Bluffs, by Lieutenant Horace Brown, United States army, December 1, 1862, under a proclamation of the president of the United States, bearing date July 2, 1862. It will be noted that much of the mortality of this company is attributed to disease, what were the immediate causes of its contraction cannot be ascertained from the reports.

#### ROSTER OF COMPANY K.

Bonaparte Dale, first lieutenant, commissioned December 1, 1862, Bedford, enlisted August 9, 1862, August 6, 1863 became captain and was mustered in in that capacity September 14, 1863; Jonathan H. Stine, fifth corporal, Bedford, enlisted August 13, 1862, mustered in November 8, 1862. *Privates*—T. P. Dale, Bedford, enlisted August 9, 1862, mustered in November 12, 1862; R. J. Foster, Bedford, enlisted August 9, 1862, mustered in November 10, 1862; Thomas A. Foster, Bedford, enlisted November 20, 1862, mustered in November 23, 1862, discharged for disability at Little Rock, Arkansas, September 19, 1864; George Garren, Platteville, enlisted August 9, 1862, mustered in November 10, 1862, died at Helena, Arkansas, January 28, 1863; Morris H. Herbert, Bedford, enlisted August 20, 1862, mustered in, November 20, 1862, wounded and captured at Jenkin's Ferry, Arkansas, April 30, 1864; Martin Miller, Bedford, enlisted August 9, 1862, mustered in November 10, 1862, joined this company from company F; Jonathan Parrish, Bedford, enlisted August 9, 1862, mustered in November 10, 1862; Samuel Rockwell, Bedford, enlisted August 9, 1862, mustered in November 10, 1862; William A. Stine, Bedford, enlisted August 9, 1862, mustered in November 10, 1862, discharged for disability at St. Louis, Mo., September 18, 1864; John Townsend, Bedford, enlisted August 9, 1862, mustered in November 10, 1862; J. H. Turner, enlisted August 9, 1862, mustered in November 10, 1862, promoted to sergeant-major, December 2, 1862; William B. Atkin, Bedford, enlisted December 15, 1862, mustered in January 3, 1863.

#### ADDITIONAL ENLISTMENTS.

Henry R. Roush, Polk township, enlisted and mustered in December 23, 1863, transferred to Company F, May 24, 1864.

Company K was enrolled in the counties of Mills, Page, Guthrie, Adair, Fremont and Taylor. It went into quarters November 13, 1862, and was mustered in at Council Bluffs, by Lieutenant Horace Brown, December 1, 1862. A large number of the company died from disease, or were discharged on account of disability, resulting from disease. Only one was killed in action and seven of the whole number wounded; of the wounded ones, four were captured. The company was fortunate in the field but terribly depleted through disease in the camp.



## HISTORY OF THE FORTY-SIXTH IOWA.

This regiment was enlisted to serve for the term of one hundred days. On June 14, 1864, the regiment was dispatched to Cairo, Illinois, arriving on the following day, and on the seventeenth started to report to General Washburne, at Memphis, Tennessee. June 27, the regiment was ordered to Colliersville, Tennessee, to garrison that post and to protect the railroad property in its vicinity. The command returned to Memphis on the first of September and on the tenth was ordered to Cairo, arriving there on the fourteenth. September 16 found the regiment at Davenport, where it was mustered out and paid off, September 20, 1864.

## ROSTER OF COMPANY D.

This company was enrolled in the counties of Fayette and Taylor, in accordance with a proclamation of the governor of the state, calling for men for the one hundred days' service. The proclamation bears the date of April 25, 1864. The company was ordered into quarters in May, 1864, and mustered in the service of the United States at camp McClellan, Davenport, by Captain Alex. Chambers, United States army, June 10, 1864. It will be noted that unless otherwise stated this date applies to the mustering in of every individual in the company. L. T. McConn, captain, Benton township, enlisted May 21, 1864. Ira Harrington, second lieutenant, Benton township, enlisted May 21, 1864. C. C. Wolf, first sergeant, Clayton township, enlisted May 21, 1864; David Smith, second sergeant, enlisted May 21, 1864, promoted from private June 13, 1864; C. E. Fletch, fourth sergeant, Benton township, enlisted May 21, 1864; George W. Hatfield, fifth sergeant, enlisted May 21, 1864; W. L. Gardner, second corporal, Ross township, enlisted May 21, 1864; C. C. Mohler, third corporal, Benton township, enlisted May 21, 1864; L. D. Hatfield; fourth corporal, Ross township, enlisted May 21, 1864; G. W. Vandaman, fifth corporal, Ross township, enlisted May 21, 1864, died at Colliersville, Tennessee, August 1, 1864; John A. Golding; fifth corporal, enlisted May 23, 1864, promoted from private August 3, 1864. *Privates*—L. J. Allen, Benton township, enlisted May 21, 1864. The entire company unless otherwise stated, enlisted May 21, 1864. J. D. Agler, Ross township; W. J. Booher, Jackson township; Ira Beach, Benton township; Samuel Burge, Jackson township; W. T. Burge, Jackson township; Samuel Comer, Benton township; G. W. Cole, Ross township; Isaiah Cordell, Jefferson township, died at Keokuk, October 5, 1864; Marion Cordell, Jefferson township; Z. G. Church, Ross township; R. A. Church, Ross township; David Cooksey, Jefferson township; D. Dilley, Clayton township; N. H. Dunken, Benton township; Ichabod Dow, Benton township; C. P. Delong, Clayton township; S. A. Fleming, Benton township; D. Foster, Ross township; M. H. Guyll, Jefferson township; Madison Greer, Benton township; I. H. Gill, Jackson township; A. J. Guyll, Jefferson township; J. A. Golding, Benton township, promoted to fifth corporal, August 3, 1864; John Huddleson, Clayton township; Samuel Howe, Polk township; J. W. Hunnell, Benton township; S. A. W. Hindman, Jefferson township; Henry Kinney, Ross township; T. Leonard, Platte township; William Laird, Washington town-

ship; S. Lucas, Benton township; W. W. Mitchell, Benton township; James Martin, Clayton township; C. Mercer, Benton township; I. G. McFarland, Benton township; Isaiah McCord, Mason township; J. M. Nelson, Benton township; R. H. Nelson, Benton township; G. N. Portsman, Jefferson township; W. Reynolds, Benton township; J. L. Rogers, Benton township; W. S. Reed, Benton township; S. Robinson, Platte township; J. P. Reynolds, Benton township; J. D. Stockton, Benton township; David Smith, Benton township; J. J. Scott, Clayton township; L. Tolbert, Benton township; S. S. Wills, Jefferson township; W. A. Wilson, Jackson township.

In the final muster of this company, seven men were rejected for physical disability.

#### FOURTH CAVALRY, MISSOURI STATE MILITIA.

##### ROSTER OF COMPANY A.

B. F. Martin, private, enlisted and ranked, May 12, 1862, promoted to corporal November 1, 1863, mustered in at Sligo, Missouri.

##### COMPANY C.

W. J. McAter, private, enlisted March 12, 1862, mustered in, April 1, 1862.

##### COMPANY E.

Joseph Park, captain, Bedford, enlisted February 24, 1862, mustered in, April 5, 1862; E. D. Fenno, second lieutenant, Bedford, enlisted February 24, 1862, mustered in, April 5, 1862, resigned August 12, 1862; Columbus Dale, first sergeant, Bedford, enlisted March 12, 1862, mustered in, April 5, 1862, promoted to second lieutenant August 31, 1862; James S. Martin, second sergeant, Bedford, enlisted March 11, 1862, mustered in, April 5, 1862; John Starkey, third sergeant, Lexington, enlisted February 24, 1862, mustered in, April 5, 1862; Franklin Swap, fifth sergeant, Bedford, enlisted March 11, 1862, mustered in, April 5, 1862, promoted to first lieutenant August 31, 1862; W. H. Morris, first corporal, enlisted April 4, 1862, and mustered in, the following day; P. W. Davis, fourth corporal, Platteville, enlisted December 20, 1861, mustered in, April 5, 1862, wounded near Fayetteville, Arkansas, October 27, 1862, promoted to first sergeant, April 1, 1863; Elijah Starkey, fifth corporal, Lexington, enlisted February 24, 1862, ranked, April 5, 1862; G. C. Mitchell, sixth corporal, Platteville, enlisted March 11, 1862, mustered in, April 5, 1862, discharged for disability December 1, 1862; John Parker, seventh corporal, Bedford, enlisted March 2, 1862. The remaining members of this company were mustered in, April 5, 1862. Ira Farnsworth, eighth corporal, Platteville. *Privates*—A. H. Barnes, Platteville, enlisted March 17, 1862; W. H. Banes, Platteville, enlisted March 8, 1862; William Bouchert, Bedford, enlisted March 11, 1862; Charles A. Brown, Platteville, enlisted May 10, 1862, deserted May 21, 1862; I. N. Edwards, Bedford, enlisted March 1, 1862; James Freeman, Bedford, enlisted



March 27, 1862; Matthew Golding, Bedford, enlisted March 11, 1862; William Golding, Bedford, enlisted March 11, 1862; Jefferson Gregg, Lexington, enlisted March 11, 1862; F. McCready, Platteville, enlisted December 21, 1862, deserted at Marshall, Missouri, May 24, 1863; Calvin Moore, Bedford, enlisted February 24, 1862; James Morris, Bedford, enlisted February 25, 1862; John Nelson, Bedford, enlisted March 11, 1862, promoted to first corporal December 1, 1862; Benjamin Perkins, Bedford, enlisted March 11, 1862, appointed musician, mustered out of service, November 15, 1862; Marion Parker, Bedford, enlisted March 17, 1862, appointed bugler March 1, 1863; Franklin Starkey, Lexington, enlisted March 24, 1862; David Shepherd, Platteville, enlisted March 15, 1862; John M. Shepherd, Platteville, enlisted March 15, 1862, promoted to fifth sergeant August 31, 1862, deserted March 16, 1863; Thomas Stutler, Lexington, enlisted February 24, 1862; Charles Starkey, Lexington, enlisted February 24, 1862; Charles Van Houten, Lexington, enlisted March 12, 1862, deserted August 9, 1863; E. K. Watters, Lexington, enlisted February 24, 1862; John Webb, Lexington, enlisted February 28, 1862, deserted April 15, 1862. This company was mustered in at St. Joseph, Missouri by Major W. M. Albin, April 5, 1862. It belonged to the state service, serving with its regiment until the latter was mustered out.

## COMPANY G.

The officers and men of this company were ranked or mustered in, April 16, 1862, unless otherwise stated, at St. Joseph, Missouri, by Major W. M. Albin. It was mostly composed of men from this county. L. T. McCann, captain, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862, resigned July 16, 1862; A. B. Vansickle, first lieutenant, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862; B. Wilson, second lieutenant, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862, elected from the ranks, April 16, 1862, resigned November 12, 1862; James M. Given, first sergeant, Lexington, enlisted March 24, 1862, promoted to second lieutenant December 16, 1862; J. F. Johnson, third sergeant, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862, discharged for disability, November 29, 1862; N. H. Hester, fourth sergeant, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862, elected first lieutenant December 17, 1862; A. M. Heady, fifth sergeant, enlisted March 25, 1862, discharged for disability October 14, 1862; J. C. Brooks, first corporal, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862, discharged for disability at St. Louis, Missouri, February 10, 1863; D. W. Scott, second corporal, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862; John Campbell, fourth corporal, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862, appointed sergeant November 1, 1862, discharged at Warrensburg, Missouri, April 25, 1863; Edward Otis, fifth corporal, Gravity, enlisted, April 5, 1862; W. M. Reader, sixth corporal, Lexington, enlisted March 24, 1862, discharged at hospital at Benton Barracks, February 26, 1863; George W. Cummins, Bedford, musician, enlisted April 15, 1862; John Derrickson, musician, Bedford, enlisted April 15, 1862. *Privates*—James A. Adams, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862, discharged for disability September 23, 1863; J. B. Ayler, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862; P. J. Agler, enlisted March 24, 1862, died at Kansas City, Missouri, June 1, 1862; Stewart Agler, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862, appointed corporal July 23, 1862, killed in a skirmish with guerillas,



May 5, 1863; N. Atkins, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862, discharged for disability September 16, 1862; Stephen Amarine, Lexington, enlisted March 24, 1862; J. N. Blake, Bedford, no date of enlistment; Milton Blake, no date of enlistment, died at Kansas City, Missouri, June 25, 1862; Philip Burke, Bedford, no date of enlistment; Richard Baker, Gravity, enlisted April 16, 1862, deserted May 26, 1862; D. H. Campbell, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862; Sylvanus Cary, Buchanan, enlisted March 24, 1862, died at Springfield, Missouri, January 18, 1863; William Cordell, Platteville, enlisted April 23, 1862, mustered in, April 23, 1862, discharged in the field for disability November 29, 1862; J. J. Evans, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862; W. N. Fouts, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862; William Greer, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862; Thomas Greer, Bedford, enlisted July 29, 1863, mustered in, at Kansas City, July 29, 1863; John R. Gartrell, Gravity, enlisted April 10, 1862, discharged at Springfield, Missouri, November 4, 1862; William Harris, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862, discharged by order of the surgeon at St. Joseph, Missouri, April 29, 1862; William Hardin, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862; Benjamin G. Jones, Gravity, enlisted April 10, 1862; Rodney King, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862, died of lung fever at Mt. Vernon, July 4, 1862; Clark C. Leaming, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862; Calvin C. Leaming, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862; Jesse Laird, Gravity, enlisted April 23, 1862; Thomas Laird, Gravity, enlisted April 23, 1862; David C. Lavery, Gravity, enlisted April 10, 1862, died of lung fever at Mt. Vernon, July 18, 1862; Wiliam Morris, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862, discharged by surgeon at St. Joseph, Missouri, April 29, 1862; Samuel McConnell, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862, discharged for over age, April 25, 1862; John Y. Morris, Bedford, enlisted April 10, 1862, discharged for disability at Springfield, Missouri, September 1, 1862; G. C. Newkirk, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862; John Nichol, Bedford, enlisted April 15, 1862; Alexander Oliver, Gravity, enlisted April 10, 1862; Nathaniel Paten, Platteville, enlisted April 15, 1862; Henry Price, Bedford, enlisted April 5, 1862, discharged at St. Joseph, Missouri, April 29, 1862, by order of surgeon; Jeremiah Ross, Platteville, enlisted April 5, 1862; Joseph Rushr, Lexington, enlisted April 10, 1862, discharged at St. Joseph, Missouri, April 29, 1862, by order of surgeon; Samson Salem, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862; W. E. Smith, Bedford, enlisted March 24, 1862; Marion Sturgeon, Bedford, enlisted March 30, 1862; Harvey Swindler, Lexington, enlisted April 10, 1862; Stephen Woolsey, Lexington, enlisted March 24, 1862.

## HISTORY OF THE NINTH CAVALRY.

This regiment of volunteer cavalry was organized at the desire of a large number of volunteers, who had hastened to fill the ranks of the Eighth Iowa Volunteer Cavalry. The surplus, after the quota of the Eighth was filled, desired to aid, and with the special permission of the general government, became the nucleus of the Ninth. The additional number for an aggregate strength, at day of muster of one thousand, one hundred and seventy-eight was soon obtained. The organization of the regiment was effected during the months of



October and November, 1863, at Davenport, and mustered in by Lieutenant-Colonel W. N. Grier, U. S. A., at that place November 30, 1863.

While awaiting arms, equipment and horses the regiment was quartered at Camp Roberts, afterward Camp Kinsman, near the city of Davenport. After a week spent thus, marching orders came and the command took its departure for St. Louis, Missouri. The military officials at St. Louis were guilty of a great criminal blunder, and the regiment instead of being sent into barracks, was ordered into camp, December 11, 1863, at Camp Jackson. Many of the men were without tents and consequently exposed to all the severities of the weather. On the sixteenth the command was ordered to Benton barracks, which at that time, was a camp of instruction.

Here the time was occupied in drilling and other duties calculated to initiate the members in the art of war, until March 1, 1864, when the officer in command, General Hatch, was relieved by brigadier-General J. W. Davidson. Under him the final preparations for taking the field were rapidly consummated. The regiment when ready to march, was declared the best mounted regiment seen by that general in nineteen years of cavalry service. The regiment was employed from April 14, 1864, in skirmishing with and capturing bands of guerrillas. May 15th of that year, the regiment embarked for Duvall's Bluff, Arkansas, when it encamped a short distance from White river. This was the great depot of supplies for General Steele's army, and was, hence, an object of great solicitude on the part of the Confederate forces. From this date on the duties of the regiment were light. It engaged in no battles whatever, and only occasionally did a small force get drawn into a skirmish with the enemy. The time was largely spent in foraging and picket or guard duty. The regiment was finally mustered out at Little Rock, Arkansas. Companies E, F, G, H, K, and L, February 3, 1866; A, C, D, and the field and staff, February 28; company I, March 15, and company B, March 23. During its service it marched over two thousand miles, moved by steamboat and by rail, seventeen hundred miles, and the aggregate marches of its various detachments were eight thousand miles or more. It did not lose a single man killed and had but fifteen wounded. The total number of deaths from sickness including two deaths by drowning, was one hundred and sixty-six. Following is the farewell letter of General Trumbull to his men:

HEADQUARTERS NINTH IOWA CAVALRY VOLUNTEERS.

FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, February 19, 1866.

*To the Officers and Soldiers of the Ninth Iowa Cavalry:*

GENTLEMEN.—We are about to separate. Our work is done. The flag of the republic waves triumphantly over all her ancient domain. In the great struggle which has passed you have done well, and you leave the service carrying with you a noble tribute of approbation from the major general commanding the district, one of the greatest of soldiers of the country. The hardships and dangers you have undergone have been great, and many of our comrades have sunk by the wayside. The discipline has been severe but it was necessary to make soldiers of you. In the new positions you are to assume preserve your soldier's name untainted, and should the president of the United States again order the "long roll" beaten, I trust we shall all be ready to fall in.

May prosperity and happiness attend you all, comrades, I bid you farewell.

M. M. TRUMBULL.

Colonel Ninth Iowa Cavalry Volunteers, and Brevet Brigadier-General, U. S. A.

#### ROSTER OF COMPANY B.

John Flick, captain, Bedford, no date of enlistment, mustered in November 30, 1863; commissioned November 30, 1863. Edgar D. Fenno, first sergeant, Bedford, enlisted July 18, 1863, mustered in same date; Austin S. Houck, commissary sergeant, Bedford, enlisted July 18, 1863, mustered in same date, discharged at Little Rock, Arkansas for disability, June 18, 1865; Richard Boatman, fourth sergeant, Bedford, enlisted August 6, 1863, mustered in same date, had served seventeen months in Company I, First Nebraska Infantry. J. G. Corksey, first corporal, Fisher's Mill, enlisted August 11, 1863, and was mustered in same date; B. F. Kauble, third corporal, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in August 15, 1863; R. H. Johnson, Bedford, fourth corporal, enlisted and mustered in August 28, 1863; Albert L. Henderson, eighth corporal, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in July 18, 1863. I. C. Everett, teamster, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in August 15, 1863, discharged for disability at Fayetteville, Arkansas, January 11, 1866; Thomas Carr, saddler, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in August 11, 1863, died of pneumonia at Benton barracks, Missouri, February 21, 1864. *Privates*—A. J. Brown, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in August 1, 1863; Jacob Cole, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in July 18, 1863; John T. Curry, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in October 10, 1863, served fifteen months in Company A, Fifth Missouri Infantry; Abraham Flick, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in, July, 1863, killed in action near Searcy, Arkansas, September 6, 1864; this was the only person belonging to the company killed during its time of service; Nathan Gill, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in, July 18, 1863; David Gavren, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in, August 11, 1863; J. A. Hawk, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in July 18, 1863; M. W. Martin, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in, August 6, 1863; Henry M. Martin, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in, August 8, 1863; W. H. Morris, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in, July 18, 1863; C. N. McGuire, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in, August 15, 1863; E. T. Moore, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in, August 1, 1863; James S. Nichols, Platteville, enlisted and mustered in, August 11, 1863; Elijah Parker, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in, August 6, 1863; Hiram Rockwell, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in, July 11, 1863; John Severns, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in, August 1, 1863; B. F. Wood, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in, August 1, 1863; John H. Webb, Bedford, enlisted and mustered in, August 15, 1863, died of chronic diarrhea, at Davenport, December 23, 1863; Socrates Williams, Bedford, enlisted and ranked, August 15, 1863. The total rank and file of Company B numbered ninety-five men. It was enrolled in the counties of Taylor, Lin and Scott. It was ordered into quarters September 1, 1863; Lieutenant-Colonel W. N. Green, First United States Cavalry, mustered the company in at Davenport, under special authority of the war department bearing the date of September 7, 1863. Four men from Taylor county were rejected at the time



of muster for disability of various kinds. The company shared all the fortunes of its regiment.

#### SCATTERING ENLISTMENTS.

The following enlistments may be properly classified under this caption. Taken in connection with the preceding regimental and company rosters, there will be presented a complete list of all the men who went from Taylor county to aid their brethren in the field. The causes for the scattering enlistments are as numerous as they are diverse. Sometimes the regiment in which they originally enlisted was more than full, and the overflow was transferred to other regiments, not yet having their full complement. Then again, men from this county joined regiments or companies forming elsewhere than within this enrollment district and though they were carefully credited to the county, they ranked in other brigades and engaged in other battles than those in which the major part of Taylor county men participated. Some even joined regiments forming in other states.

Bonaparte Dale, Bedford, enlisted and mustered into service August 1, 1861, discharged for disability at Sturgeon, Missouri, March 13, 1862, Third Infantry, Company E; T. Brisbane, Bedford, enlisted July 4, 1861, mustered into service September 20, 1862, promoted from sixth corporal to fifth, died February 13, 1863, at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, of chronic diarrhea, Fourth Infantry, Company E; J. C. Burton, Lexington, went into quarters November 24, 1861, promoted first corporal December 14, 1861, discharged October 28, 1862, for disability, Fourth Infantry, Company G; David Parrish, Lexington, private, enlisted August 10, 1861, mustered in August 13, 1861, died at Indianapolis, April 20, 1862, of wound received at Shiloh, Eighth Infantry, Company C; James Bromley, Memory, private, enlisted August 15, 1862, mustered in August 29, 1862, Twenty-third Infantry, Company F; R. S. Miller, private, enlisted August 27, 1861, mustered in November 23, 1861, Fourth Cavalry, Company A; R. H. Morgan, private, enlisted August 27, 1861, mustered in November 13, 1861, Fourth Cavalry, Company A; John Lewis, Bedford, private, enlisted September 13, 1863, mustered in October 11, 1863, First Iowa Infantry (African), Company E; Alfred Shelton, Bedford, private, enlisted September 14, 1863, mustered in, October 11, 1863, First Iowa Infantry (African), Company E; George Williams, Bedford, private, enlisted September 16, 1863, mustered in, October 11, 1863, died at Helena, Arkansas, January 16, 1864, of disease, First Iowa Infantry, Company E (African); Ford Stockwell, Bedford, fifth sergeant, enlisted September 1, 1863, mustered in, November 27, 1863, Company I, First Iowa Infantry (African); Nathaniel Conigher, Bedford, same date and company as last, (African); Oliver King, Bedford, private, enlisted August 10, 1863; mustered in, November 27, 1863, Company I, First Iowa Infantry (African); Charles H. Lewis, Bedford, private, enlisted August 1, 1863, mustered in at Springfield, Missouri, October 14, 1863, Eleventh Missouri Cavalry, Company B; John Van Houten, Lexington, private, enlisted January 27, 1863, mustered in, March 31, 1863, at St. Joseph, Missouri, Company E, Eleventh Missouri Cavalry; B. F. Martin, private, enlisted and mustered in, May 12, 1862, promoted to corporal



November 1, 1862, Fourth Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, Company A; W. J. McAtee, Buchanan, private, enlisted March 12, 1862, mustered in April 1, 1862, Company C, Fourth Cavalry, Missouri State Militia; W. E. Swap, Bedford, teamster, enlisted May 14, 1862, and mustered in same date, discharged at Greenfield, Missouri, for disability, January 15, 1863, Company K, Fourth Cavalry, Missouri State militia; S. P. McComber, Nodaway township, private, enlisted January 4, 1864, mustered in same date, Company H, Twenty-third Infantry; John Boyd, Jefferson township, fifth sergeant, enlisted May 21, 1864, mustered in June 10, 1864, Company K, Forty-sixth Infantry; Jacob Falkner, Bedford, private, enlisted January 5, 1864, mustered in same date, Company B, Ninth Cavalry; David A. Daily, private, enlisted December 19, 1862, mustered in January 21, 1863, Company I, Fourth Infantry; Asbury Fouts, Washington township, private, enlisted October 19, 1864, as substitute, mustered in same date, no company assigned; Nathan Helmich, Memory, private, enlisted November 1, 1861, Company K, Fiftieth Illinois Infantry; I. N. Polton, Bedford, private, enlisted and mustered in, June 18, 1861, discharged November 10, 1864, by expiration of enlistment, Company E, First Nebraska Cavalry.

The companies of the following-named recruits were unknown at the adjutant-general's office: S. K. Bean, private, enlisted December 23, 1863, and mustered in same date; W. H. Bean, private, enlisted December 23, 1863, mustered in same date; Thomas Freel, private, enlisted December 20, 1863, mustered in same date; W. H. Hutchinson, private, enlisted and mustered in December 27, 1863; T. Hillis, private, enlisted December 15, 1863, no date of muster in; J. F. McFarland, private, enlisted December 4, 1863, mustered in, December 23, 1863; H. H. Roush, private, enlisted and mustered in December 23, 1863; R. G. Simons, same as Roush; R. Salen, private, enlisted December 19, 1863, no date of muster in.

#### THE SOUTHERN BORDER BRIGADE.

During the war with the Southern Confederacy, the entire range of counties on the Missouri line were constantly in a state of excitement and apprehension, fearing an invasion from armed bands from Missouri. Raids were actually made by both sides on the border counties of the two states, which resulted in the destruction of both life and property.

To insure the protection of the citizens of these counties the general assembly, at the extra session of 1862, directed the organization of the Southern Border Brigade, the name of which is suggestive of its object. But the necessity for some sort of concerted action had been previously known, and in October, 1861, the adjutant-general of Iowa called attention to the matter of protecting the border. This was done in a general order. Acting on this order independent volunteer organizations were formed and July 3, 1861, the First Regiment Western Division Iowa Volunteers was organized, and was composed of volunteers from Adams, Montgomery, Page and Taylor counties.

It was officered by John R. Morledge, colonel; L. T. McCoun, lieutenant-colonel, and David Ellison, major. These men were all commissioned by Governor Kirkwood. At the bequest of loyal citizens of Nodaway, Worth and Gentry counties, Missouri, who from time to time received rumors of a confederate



force marching upon them to drive them out, the regiment made three expeditions into the state of Missouri, but they met no confederate force, and consequently never had an engagement.

Under date of September 11, 1862, the governor addressed the following instructions to R. A. Moser of Lexington, Taylor county, with reference to this brigade:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, IOWA, SEPT. 11, 1862.

*R. A. Moser, Lexington, Taylor County:*

SIR: A law has passed the general assembly authorizing the organization in your county and other border counties, of a company of men for home defense against guerilla bands from Missouri. The law will soon be published, and you will be able to see its provisions and learn its object. I desire you to enlist the company for your county.

I am informed that in some of the border counties there are men whose loyalty is doubtful, and whose sympathies are with the rebels. Such men must not be admitted into the company. I will not, if I can avoid it, be instrumental in placing the public arms in the hands of any man whose devotion to the government in this hour of peril is doubtful. I do not mean by this that none but republicans should be enlisted. I only mean just what I say, that your company must consist of open, known, unconditional supporters of the government and of the Union and I hold you responsible if you accept this service, that you enlist none others. Your company can consist of not less than eighty nor more than one hundred men all told. When you have enlisted the minimum number, you will call the men together and have them elect one captain and one first lieutenant, and report the names to the adjutant-general, who will issue commissions. The men are enlisted to act as mounted men whenever their services are needed, and each man must furnish his own horse, saddle, bridle, blankets and clothing. It is not intended that these men should all be on constant service. A few men from each company will daily act as scouts, and the others are to be at home, holding themselves as minute men. Please also report to me, at Iowa City, your action in this matter. I trust you will feel it to be your duty to do this work, and to do it firmly and thoroughly. It is for the defense of your own county and the service should be promptly performed. If for any reason you cannot act in this matter, please hand this authority, indorsed by you, to some man who will do it in the manner herein set forth, and report his name and postoffice address to me immediately,

Very respectfully,

SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD.

In pursuance of this letter of instruction, Company B, Fourth Battalion of Southern Border Brigade, was duly enrolled. The total rank and file numbered ninety-seven men and were the following named persons: John Flick, captain; David Smith, lieutenant; W. S. Hamilton, orderly sergeant; A. P. Evans, bugler. *Privates*—J. C. Adams, J. S. Boyd, George Bauer, Elihu Baker, James Burge, Jeremiah Beall, Enoch Beauchamp, W. M. Burk, Daniel Blake, N. J. Blake, George Ballou, Edwin Brown, J. W. Burk, John Banes, J. B. Campbell, J. Cole, G. B. Cadle, E. A. Coon, J. E. Cooksey, John Cooksey, R. E. Dilly, Jesse Dale, I. C. Everett, Jesse Evans, E. W. Fouts, A. Fouts, A. Flick, J. A. Golding,

Thomas Greer, James Gartside, Gilbert Golding, J. Huddleston, T. Herrington, E. Hawk, C. H. Hann, Daniel Hoover, M. Hause, Thomas Hutson, John Helm, L. D. Hatfield, G. W. Hatfield, S. J. Hall, William Hindman, S. U. Hindman, R. M. E. Hicks, L. W. Hillyer, Edwin Houck, J. A. Hawk, L. D. Hair, Oliver Jenks, D. Johnson, Cary Knox, J. V. Lyons, R. A. Moser, J. C. Meehan, James Mathers, James Martin, William Mahan, C. C. Mohler, John Morgan, T. McCracken, J. Morgan, W. P. Medals, J. D. Moore, Oliver Nash, F. H. Perkins, E. Parker, O. Perkins, J. C. Ray, W. W. Ray, Daniel Perkins, Jacob Reed, R. Rockwell, E. T. Smith, J. J. Scott, Cyrus Swett, James Sickles, J. S. Sleath, J. R. Standley, A. Stephens, William Swonley, D. Underwood, John Van Houten, A. J. Wallace, James Wallace, R. B. Wallace, James Walters, T. Wolverton, I. Wallace, J. W. Wood and Caleb Wilson.

There seems to have been no disturbance in this county, sufficient to warrant an official report to the adjutant-general, as was actually the case in Fremont, Ringgold, Davis and Van Buren counties. At times, there was intense excitement here, but nothing of a warlike nature ever occurred.

A volume could be filled with reminiscences of these times by people still living, but lack of space forbids. It has been forty-four years since the "boys" came home. Many have gone to their reward. The column of old veterans that annually marches to the cemetery with their floral tribute to their dead comrades on Memorial Day, is rapidly dwindling. The men are less erect, and their step lacks the buoyancy of former days. But as long as time shall last, their deeds will be cherished by generations yet unborn. Children should and will be taught to realize the debt that we owe to the heroes of "61" to "65." We close with a quotation from one of our poets:

"On Fame's eternal camping ground,  
Their silent tents are spread;  
While Glory guards with solemn round  
The Bivouac of the dead."

#### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

Cuba, and her war-ridden, starved and abused people were long the objects of sympathy of the liberty-loving people of this country. Spain's method of rule over that unhappy island was, for many years, a succession of revolting cruelties. The Cuban struggle for liberty against fearful odds excited the admiration of the world, and especially did it appeal to the people of the United States. The instance of the wanton murder of the crew of the *Virginius* by Spanish authority was also a grievance which the American people could not excuse or forget. This happened during the ten years' insurrection in which thousands of Cubans gave their lives in an unsuccessful attempt to throw off the yoke of Spain. The Cubans were whipped, or at least cajoled by promises of better government in the future, so that for a time they settled into conditions that grew even worse than before the insurrection.

In 1895, undaunted by their former failure to gain their freedom, they again rebelled. Spain poured corps after corps of her best soldiers into the island, but was unable to put down the insurrection. Marshall Campos was recalled for

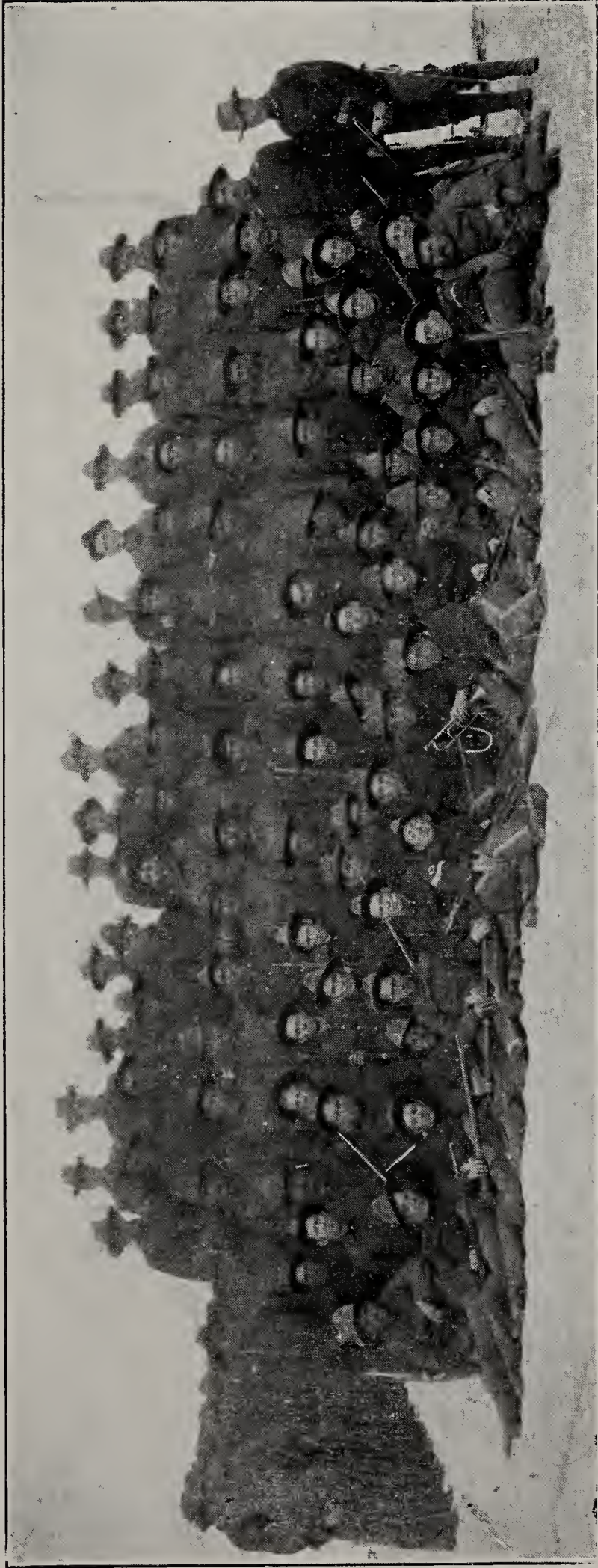


alleged lack of energy and in his place General Weyler was put with the hope of reaching a speedy end. Weyler's reign in the island, from the first, was one of fire and slaughter. The non-combatants, old men, women and children, were driven from their homes, and collected in great bodies where they were left to starve or die of disease.

In 1896 Cuba had become a veritable slaughterhouse. At the close of President Cleveland's administration congress made an attempt toward the recognition of the Cubans as belligerents, but the president failed to make the bill a law by withholding his signature. Weyler's rule continued with its awful results. The sufferings of the unfortunate islanders more than ever appealed to the people of the United States, who daily importuned the government to intervene. This appeal resulted in a vigorous diplomatic remonstrance by the government to the Spanish minister, resulting in promises of better treatment for the future, and the recall of General Weyler. General Blanco succeeded Weyler, and a shadowy form of so-called autonomous government for the island was instituted.

The beginning of 1898 found the insurrection still unsuppressed. The islanders were dying by the thousands and the people of the United States were clamoring for a cessation of hostilities. The feelings of the Spaniards toward the American residents of Cuba were expressed by insults and assaults. Consul-General Fitz Hugh Lee, in Havana, was threatened with assassination and the lives of Americans were in peril. Up to this time nothing but the most friendly relations existed between our government and Spain. In view of the disturbance in Havana, Spain was notified that the battleship Maine would be sent to that harbor, not from an unfriendly feeling, but to protect American lives, should occasion demand it. The Maine reached Havana harbor and was accorded all the courtesies usually shown foreign men-of-war on entering a port. On the night of February 15, 1898, while lying at anchor where she was conducted by Spain's official, the Maine was destroyed by an explosion and two hundred and fifty-nine of her crew perished. When information of this reached the United States it caused a wave of indignation and horror to sweep the country. The tension of feeling, long at a high pitch on account of suffering Cuba, was wrought to fever heat on account of this outrage. The popular demand was for war at once. Captain Sigsbee, in a dispatch to our government, asked the people to withhold their judgment until such time as a proper investigation of the affair could be made by the naval authorities. The people calmed somewhat under the apparent justice of this advice and awaited the result of the investigation. Every indication from the best possible sources was against the accident theory. The official board convened and remained in session more than four weeks. The testimony of expert divers, naval constructors and others was taken, and March 21, the official announcement of the result was given out as follows: The loss of the Maine was not in any respect due to fault or negligence on the part of any officer or member of her crew; that the ship was destroyed by the explosion of a submarine mine, which caused the partial explosion of two or more of her forward magazines, and that no evidence has been obtained, fixing the responsibility of the blowing up of the Maine upon any person or persons.





COMPANY I, FIFTY-FIRST REGIMENT





The people received the verdict as a foregone conclusion and again demanded war. Congress reflected this feeling by making an appropriation of fifty million dollars for national defences. On March 28th, the president sent a message to congress transmitting the findings of the Maine inquiry board. War was imminent and the policy was to delay matters until Americans could get out of Cuba. Consul General Lee was the last to leave, he remaining until all others were safely embarked. He arrived at Key West, April 11th. On April 18th both houses of congress passed resolutions demanding that the government of Spain relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters. This resolution was signed by the president April 20th. A copy was sent to Minister Woodford at Madrid with instructions to communicate the same to the Spanish government. April 23d was the date given for reply. Before Minister Woodford could present the ultimatum of the United States, he was given his passports. This act constituted the actual beginning of the war. The Spanish cortes convened on April 24th, and formally recognized the existence of war. Congress on the next day passed the following bill, politics being for once forgotten, democrats and populists voting with the republicans: "Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled: First, that war be, and the same is hereby declared to exist, and that war has existed since the 21st day of April, A. D. 1898, including said day, between the United States of America and the kingdom of Spain.

"Second, that the president of the United States be and is hereby directed and empowered to use the land and naval forces of the United States, the militia of the several states, to such an extent as may be necessary to carry this act into effect."

Immediately after the passage of the above act, President McKinley issued the following proclamation: WHEREAS, a joint resolution of congress was approved on the 20th day of April, 1898, entitled a "joint resolution for the recognition of the independence of Cuba, and demanding that the government of Spain relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba, and to withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters, and directing the president of the United States to use the land and naval forces of the United States to carry these resolutions into effect," and

WHEREAS, by an act of congress entitled "An act to provide for temporarily increasing the military establishment of the United States in time of war and for other purposes," approved April 22, 1898, the president is authorized, in order to raise a volunteer army, to issue his proclamation calling for volunteers to serve in the army of the United States:

Now, therefore, I, William McKinley, president of the United States, by virtue of the power vested in me by the constitution and the laws, and deeming sufficient occasion to exist, have thought fit to call forth, and hereby do call forth, volunteers to the aggregate number of one hundred and twenty-five thousand, in order to carry into effect the purpose of said resolution; the same to be apportioned, as far as practicable, among the several states and territories and the district of Columbia, according to population, and to serve for two years,



unless sooner discharged. The details for this object will be immediately communicated to the proper authorities through the war department. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington, this twenty-third day of April, A. D. 1898, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty-second.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

By the President,  
JOHN SHERMAN,  
*Secretary of State.*

While Iowa had not been specifically called upon for troops, in anticipation of the call being made, a general order bearing date of April 21, 1898, was issued by Adjutant General Byers, to prepare the national guard of the state for mobilization. All members who had family ties which would be detrimental to their volunteering in the United States service were ordered discharged at once, as were also all men under the age of twenty-one years who could not procure the written consent of parents or legally appointed guardians, and all who could not pass a rigid physical examination. Company commanders were ordered to enlist their companies up to not less than forty-five men, who, if ordered into the field, would go, enlistments being confined to ex-members of the guard and men who had received military training. Company commanders were also ordered to form reserve squads of applicants who had passed the required examination, same to be held as reserve members without enlistment, to be used in case of call to service to fill up the companies to the required number, and to be drilled and disciplined ready to enter active service.

Further anticipating the call, the state fair grounds were secured for the mobilization or camp of the troops. General J. R. Lincoln, inspector general, had been selected as commander of the camp, and Major J. T. Davidson, as assistant adjutant general, and the barns and grounds cleaned up and made ready for the reception of the troops. All this was preliminary. Following the president's call for troops, April 23d, the companies of the Iowa National Guard were ordered to assemble in their armories, and by the 25th of April this was done, and the various companies were awaiting orders to move, each company provided with two days' rations. Train service had been arranged for over the various railroads and cars were in waiting. In the evening of the 25th the governor of Iowa received the following telegram from the war department:

WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 25, 1898.

*The Governor of Iowa:*

The number of troops from your state under the call of the president, dated April 23, 1898, will be three regiments of infantry and two light batteries of artillery. It is the wish of the president that the regiments of the national guard, or state militia, be used as fast as their numbers will permit, for the reason that they are armed, equipped and drilled. Please wire me as early as possible what equipment, ammunition, arms, blankets, etc., you have, and what additional you

will require. Please, also, state when troops will be ready for muster into the United States service. Details to follow by mail.

R. A. ALGER,  
*Secretary of War.*

On the evening of April 25, 1898, telegrams were sent to all the forty-eight companies, composing the four regiments of the national guard, and to the regimental officers, to report without unnecessary delay at Camp McKinley, Des Moines, Iowa, state fair grounds, which was an ideal place for rendezvous, being supplied with good water and shelter.

Eleven years ago, the 26th of April, as fine a body of soldiers marched down Main street, Bedford, as ever went forth to defend their country. We were all proud of the boys of Company I, and we knew that they would sustain the honor and glory won by Taylor county heroes who served in that fierce war for national existence in 1861-1865, and we were not disappointed. as reference to their record will show.

All the regiments reported at Camp McKinley on April 26, 1898, and the work of organization began. Captain J. A. Olmstead, Ninth United States Cavalry, on duty with the Iowa National Guard, was appointed by the war department, mustering officer for Iowa. First Lieutenant H. E. Ely, Twenty-Second United States Infantry, offered his services, and was at once placed in charge of the organization of the two light batteries.

As the call provided for three regiments of infantry, we had four regimental organizations in camp, some difficulties arose as to which of the organizations should remain at home until the second call, and during this controversy the war department was appealed to, and on April 30th, the order was changed to four regiments of infantry, each composed of eighteen field, staff, and non-commissioned staff officers, twelve companies, each composed of three officers and sixty-five enlisted men; total aggregate strength of all grades, three thousand, three hundred and thirty-six men.

At once the following regiments of the Iowa National Guard were selected as a basis for furnishing this quota: Second Regiment, Colonel D. V. Jackson, commanding; Fourth Regiment, Colonel W. B. Humphrey, commanding; Third Regiment, Colonel J. C. Loper, commanding; First Regiment, Colonel W. G. Dows, commanding.

In designating the volunteer regiments it was decided to make their numbers a continuation of the series of the Civil war. The first regiment of the national guard, accordingly, went into the service of the United States as the Forty-Ninth Iowa Infantry Volunteers, the other regiments taking number in the volunteer service in the same order, as follows: Second Regiment, Iowa National Guard, became the Fiftieth Regiment, Iowa Infantry Volunteers; Third Regiment, Iowa National Guard, became the Fifty-first Iowa Infantry, Volunteers; Fourth Regiment, Iowa National Guard, became the Fifty-Second Iowa Infantry Volunteers.

As we are attempting to give only the part that citizens of this county took in the Spanish-American war, we will now, after briefly bringing to mind afresh the preliminary movements, follow Company I, Fifty-first Iowa, from the time of enlistment until the muster out.



After assembling at Camp McKinley, the work of shaping up the four regiments, equipping them, drilling the five hundred new recruits, necessary to bring the regiments up to the required quota, required several days to perform these duties. On June 5th, the Fifty-first Iowa left the state rendezvous for San Francisco, California, per telegraph orders from the war department. Arrived at Camp Merritt, San Francisco, June 11, 1898; removed to Camp Merriam, Presidio, July 29, 1898; embarked on board the transport Pennsylvania at San Francisco, November 3, 1898; arrived at Honolulu, November 12, 1898; left Honolulu November 16, 1898, arriving in Manila Bay, December 7, 1898; remained on board transport in Manila Bay until December 26, 1898; upon which date the regiment sailed for Iloilo, arriving at the latter place December 28th; remained on board transport in Iloilo Bay until January 29, 1899, upon which date they sailed for Cavite, arriving January 31, 1899; disembarked from transport February 3, 1899, and went into quarters in Cavite. The regiment participated in the occupation of San Roque, February 9, 1899, and the various companies were in the following engagements of the Philippine expedition:

Guadalupe church, March 5, 1899.

Quinua, April 23, 1899; East and West Prelilan, April 24, 1899; Calumpit, April 25, 1899, San Tomas, May 4, 1899; San Fernando, May 5, May 25, May 26, May 31, June 16, June 22, June 30, and July 4, 1899; Calulut, August 9, 1899; Angeles, August 9, 1899.

September 6, 1899, the regiment was moved to Manila, preparatory to return to the United States; sailed on the transport Senator, September 22, 1899; arrived at Nagasaki, Japan, September 27; sailed from Nagasaki, October 1, arrived at Yokohama, Japan, October 4; sailed from there October 6, reaching San Francisco Harbor, October 22; arrived at Presidio, October 23; mustered out November 2, 1899.

The conduct of the Iowa boys, in camp as well as on the firing line, will always be a source of pride to every citizen of the state. During their stay in Des Moines nothing but words of praise was heard of them. The citizens of San Francisco, where they were quartered for a much longer time, praised their gentlemanly conduct. The report of the adjutant general of visits he made to the various camps, is a fair sample of the reports received of our gallant boys. He says: "We arrived in Jacksonville, Florida, at 8:40 a. m. I made inquiry of a hotel porter, if he had seen any Iowa soldiers in the city that morning. He said, 'No. You don't see the Iowa soldiers loafing around town. They are soldiers.' We visited the Forty-ninth and Fiftieth Regiments and found them at that time in a very healthy condition. General Lee said the Iowa soldiers had set the pace for the whole Seventh Army Corps. I next visited the Fifty-first Regiment in their camp in the Presidio reservation, San Francisco. I found that the reputation of Iowa and Iowa soldiers had again been maintained, all San Francisco people and army officers praising the Iowa regiment as the finest body of volunteers that had come to San Francisco. Orderly and gentlemanly, ever ready to do their duty and obedient to orders."

The Spanish war was of short duration. It was the first time in fifty years, this nation had measured strength with a foreign foe, but proved to the world that the United States is a nation, and has won their admiration.



Following is the roster of the company, taken from the adjutant general's report: William B. Widner Bedford, captain; Richard J. Gaines, Greenfield, first lieutenant; Ren. H. Fuller, Bedford, second lieutenant; George B. Telford, Bedford, first sergeant, reduced to ranks September 20, 1898, discharged February 4, 1899, no cause assigned; Fred Payton, Bedford, quartermaster sergeant, promoted to first sergeant September 1, 1898; Milton H. Allen, Bedford, sergeant, promoted to quartermaster sergeant; Lucian H. Winder, Bedford, sergeant, discharged January 14, 1899; George B. Telford, Bedford, sergeant, discharged February 4, 1899; Carl Swap, Bedford, sergeant, promoted from corporal, September 20, 1898; Leroy E. Reed, Bedford, sergeant; Don C. Flick, Bedford, sergeant; Beryl E. Paschal, Bedford, sergeant; Walter R. Combs, Bedford, corporal, wounded slightly in left forearm, May 31, 1899, at San Fernando; Thomas J. Bassett, Bedford, corporal; Benjamin A. Clark, Bedford, corporal; William B. Berry, Bedford, corporal, discharged July 28, 1899, to reenlist in Eleventh United States Volunteer Cavalry; Alfred G. Smith, Leon, corporal, discharged August 1, 1899, to reenlist in Eleventh United States Volunteer Cavalry; William A. Reid, Clarksville, Missouri, corporal, discharged August 24, 1899, to enlist in Eleventh Cavalry; Walter A. Fleming, Osceola, corporal; Archie M. Huston, Conway, corporal; William M. Parrish, Bedford, corporal; Sherman W. Neff, Bedford, corporal; Guy A. Furr, Bedford, corporal, discharged July 28, 1899, to reenlist in Eleventh Cavalry, afterward killed in action; Thomas F. Payton, Bedford, corporal, discharged July 31, 1899, to reenlist in Eleventh Cavalry; William O. Lewis, Bedford, corporal; James E. Johnson, corporal; Bruce B. Boyd, Bedford, corporal, discharged October 11, 1898, at San Francisco, for disability; Clarence E. Moore, Bedford, corporal; Sidney P. Webb, Bedford, corporal; Charles W. Fry, Siam, musician; John Swap, Bedford, musician, discharged October 26, 1898, at San Francisco, for disability; Bert C. Wyckoff, Bedford, musician, discharged July 28, 1899, to reenlist in Eleventh Cavalry; Arthur V. Davidson, Bedford, artificer, discharged August 1, 1899, to reenlist in Eleventh Cavalry; Milo J. Fulton, Bedford, wagoner; George W. Brown, Bedford, corporal, cook; Harry I. Adams, Bedford; Stowell C. Avery, Bedford; Thomas J. Bassett, Bedford; Dick L. Bunton, Bedford; Emery L. Chilcote, Conway; Delbert B. Clary, Bedford, discharged, January 10, 1899, San Francisco, disability; Arthur Evans, Bedford; Bert O. Golding, Bedford, discharged March 11, 1899; Max Guggi, Bedford, discharged December 11, 1898, San Francisco, disability; Don C. Hedrick, Bedford, discharged June 26, 1899, to reenlist in Thirty-sixth Cavalry; George W. Hook, Bedford; Bert I. Klopp, Bedford; Byron W. Liggett, Conway, discharged March 29, 1899; San Francisco; Frank L. Marsh, Guss; Walter E. McCormick, Bedford; George Neff, Bedford; George C. Parsons, Bedford; Joseph C. Shuff, Blockton; Harley M. Stretch, Bedford, wounded in chin, May 31, 1899, San Fernando; William H. Wysong, Bedford, discharged November 11, 1898, San Francisco, disability.

## ADDITIONAL ENLISTMENTS.

Orville Beall, Bedford; Austin Brown, Lenox, died of typhoid fever, San Francisco, September 17, 1898; John H. Chilcote, Conway; George H. Cusick,



Gravity, discharged June 26, 1899, to reenlist in Thirty-six Volunteers; Frank Daniels, Lenox, discharged; Elmo M. Davis, Gravity, July 7, 1899, to reenlist in Thirty-six United States Volunteers; Louis Dunn, Lenox; Elmer Dutton, Gravity, died of typhoid fever, September 2, 1898, San Francisco; Logan Edmunds, Lenox, discharged at San Francisco, October 1, 1898; Herman Franklin, Bedford; Arthur C. Godwin, Lenox; Frank Hay, Lenox, discharged December 9, 1898, San Francisco; Delta S. Kinser, Bedford; William A. Livingston, Blockton; Clarence Myers, Lenox, discharged September 20, 1899, at Manila; John Reed, Blockton, died of measles, San Francisco, August 17, 1898; Robert Reed, Blockton, discharged January 14, 1899; Melvin Robinson, Lenox, discharged at San Francisco, January 19, 1899; Clyde Scherick, Bedford, discharged at San Francisco, December 21, 1898; Windsor R. Stanley, Gravity, discharged at San Fernando, June 26, 1899, to reenlist in Thirty-sixth United States Infantry, later killed in action; Roy E. Vickery, Bedford, discharged February 6, 1899.

This roster contains the names of Taylor county members of Company I. There were several enlistments from neighboring counties, but it was not thought advisable to mention them in a history of the county. Taylor county boys enlisted in other regiments, and a few in other companies in the Fifty-first Iowa. Vernon Van Houten, Lenox, enlisted in Company B, discharged January 28, 1899, at Sierra Madre, California; Hiram W. Dunn, Lenox, Company K; Gilbert R. Garrettson, Sharpsburg, Company K; Fred Kemery, Bedford, Company K; S. L. Wickersham, Guss, Company B; John Wickersham, Guss, Company B; Barton Brown, Guss, Company B, died of measles, San Francisco, August 30, 1898; Dr. E. L. Brown, Lenox, enlisted in a regiment designed for the Cuban campaign, the regiment and company not being available at this writing; Asa Sawyer, Bedford, enlisted in a company ordered to Cuba; Ed. Lee, a teacher of Nodaway township, was in Oregon at the breaking out of the war and enlisted in the Second Oregon, and saw hard service in the Philippines; William Heer, another teacher of Nodaway township, enlisted in a Colorado regiment, and was severely wounded in action in the Philippines. There may be others whose names belong among these but we cannot learn of them from the sources at hand. Since closing the above list we recall the name of Fred Lynch, of Lenox, who was mortally wounded in battle in the Cuban campaign and M. M. Moore and Elias P. Moore, Troop G, Second Rough Riders. Most of the boys saw sufficient service to know what war is like, and while they did not see the terrible fighting their fathers saw in the Civil war, their courage and patriotism was as great, and the purpose for which they were called out was accomplished and our standing among nations was put on a higher plane by the deeds of these heroic boys.

To commemorate the organization of the regiment, and to renew friendships formed during the war, the Fifty-first Regiment has been holding annual encampments. This year it was held at Creston, April 26th.

An interesting campfire was held in the evening, participated in by members of the old Fifty-first Regiment, Iowa Volunteers, and the local veterans of the Civil war. This was the closing feature of the reunion and was thoroughly enjoyed by all the participants. Hon. Dan W. Turner, of Corning, acted as toast-

master, and the evening was spent in the recital of half forgotten incidents of the Philippine campaigns.

Short talks were made by Colonel James Wiseman, Captain G. W. Carnes, Captain Guy Brewer, General Guy Logan, D. Conkling, E. J. Quigley, C. M. Stanley, Captain Ohlschager and William Hook. The principal address was made by Captain W. H. Keating of Oskaloosa, the retiring commander. Red Oak was selected for the next encampment, and it will be held April 26, 1910. The officers elected for next year are as follows: commander, Dan W. Turner, Corning; vice-commander, Guy S. Brewer, Des Moines; corresponding secretary, Ed. O'Key, Corning; recording secretary, Frank Rounds of Greenfield; treasurer, W. S. Conkling, Des Moines. The question of creating the offices of chaplain and surgeon general was brought up and unanimously adopted and the following-named gentlemen were elected to fill the places: surgeon general, Ed. Merritt, Emerson; chaplain, H. H. Hubbell, Oskaloosa.

#### FIELD AND STAFF OFFICERS FIFTY-FIRST IOWA VOLUNTEERS.

John C. Loper, Des Moines, colonel; Marcellus M. Miller, Bedford, lieutenant-colonel; William J. Duggan, Creston, major, wounded April 24, 1899, at Pulilan; John T. Hume, Des Moines, major; Sterling P. Moore, Villisca, major; Joseph T. Davidson, Muscatine, regiment adjutant, discharged August 19, 1899, to accept commission in Eleventh Cavalry; William C. Meistzer, Knoxville, regiment adjutant; George A. Reed, Des Moines, battalion adjutant; Frank M. Compton, Council Bluffs, battalion adjutant; Herbert C. Lane, Red Oak, battalion adjutant; John D. Cady, Des Moines, quartermaster; Willard S. H. Matthews, Des Moines, surgeon; David S. Fairchild, Jr., Clinton, surgeon; Donald McCrea, Jr., Council Bluffs, assistant surgeon; Wilbur S. Conkling, Des Moines, assistant surgeon; Herman P. Williams, Ames, chaplain; Claude M. Baker, Des Moines, sergeant major, discharged February 16, 1899; Charles A. Godfrey, Des Moines, sergeant major; Wallace A. Bolin, Council Bluffs, quartermaster sergeant, died of smallpox at Cavite, March 25, 1899, buried in National cemetery at San Roque, Grave No. 35; George L. Garton, Des Moines, quartermaster sergeant; Fred F. Carpenter, Galesburg, h. steward; Jarvis E. Hodgson, St. Joseph, Missouri, h. steward; Howard W. Seager, Des Moines, h. steward.

#### COUNTY BUILDINGS.

##### COURTHOUSE.

A number of years elapsed after the organization of the county, before a county building, or proper depository for important papers, was provided. The various officers of the county kept the meager records of their respective offices at their homes, and in some instances they were destroyed or lost. The county judge, the most important officer in the county, often embodying in himself the various county offices, cared for his records in a manner that today would be considered criminally careless. The earlier records of this county were kept at the residence of Judge Lowe. They were entered on loose slips



of paper, instead of books for the purpose, and put for safe keeping in a box nailed against one side of the room where "His Honor" kept court. The papers were unmarked, and unfiled, unless stowing them away promiscuously in this box could be called filing them. It is not, therefore, a matter to cause wonder that so little can be gleaned of the early history of the county from its official records.

As the business of the county increased, it became necessary to provide a suitable and safe place for keeping its records. A place accessible to all and at the same time insure the safety of important papers. But in spite of the need, which was apparent to all, the county delayed to make necessary provision. What was done with many of the records, no one knows. In the election returns for example, there is no record found of them from 1854 to 1866.

The first action toward supplying the county with a building for court purposes, is the following:

*To the Clerk of the District Court in and for Taylor County, Iowa:*

SIR: You are hereby notified that we request an extra session of the board of supervisors Saturday, the 5th day of July, 1862, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of building a courthouse on the proposition of E. Houck, or others on the same principle; also for purpose of ascertaining the will of the people on said subject.

WM. G. MEREDITH.

S. WEAVER.

BENJ. B. HOOVER.

OLIVER JENKS.

ASA COBB.

THOMAS COBB.

JOHN KING.

It is not stated what was the nature of E. Houck's proposition. Nor can it be ascertained from the record that such a session as requested in the petition was ever held. The first action in this matter, ever taken by the county officials, was at a session of the board of supervisors, in June, 1863.

The chairman of the committee on public buildings offered the following:

*Resolved*, First, that the clerk be authorized to let a contract to build a courthouse according to the plan accompanying this resolution, on Thursday, the 11th day of June, 1863, at 4 o'clock, p. m., of said day, at the door of the clerk's office, in Bedford, to the lowest responsible bidder;

*Provided*, First, that the cost does not exceed two thousand dollars.

*Second*, That the contractor give a bond of five thousand dollars with at least five sureties, for the fulfillment of the contract, to be approved by the clerk and the chairman of the committee on public buildings;

*Third*, To be built under the supervision of the chairman of the committee on public buildings, and in his inability the clerk is to have supervision of the same;

*Fourth*. To be paid for as follows: four hundred dollars when the first story is up; four hundred dollars when roofed, and six hundred dollars, when finished, and the balance in eight months, with six per cent interest.



OLD COURT HOUSE AND THE FIRST COUNTY OFFICERS IN THE  
NEW COURT HOUSE

W. F. Johnston  
County Recorder

L. T. McCoun  
County Attorney

R. Vickery  
Sheriff

Fanny Rutledge  
County Superintendent

S. M. McKissick  
County Clerk

William Cobb  
County Treasurer

M. Miller  
County Auditor





The resolution was adopted by the following vote: Yeas—Cobb of Benton, Cobb of Ross, J. Litteer, O. Jenks, Jesse Orine, John King, John McLean, Jas. Gartside, J. B. Campbell, and D. W. Hamblin; Nays—Wm. Merideth and Vincent Beall.

This proposition to build a courthouse, with the various necessary offices, and court room, called for a sum of money less than would be required to build a single vault, proof against burglars and fire, and this action was taken in 1863, when, even then, the county required a building of greater capacity than the one built.

This was the old stone building, and it stood near the street, on the south side of the square, a few feet east of the walk leading down from the front entrance of our present courthouse. It was two stories in height—short stories though. The ceilings were no higher than those of the ordinary dwelling. The upper floor was one large room, which was for many years the court room. The county offices were below. Two small vaults were provided for the records. As the county settled up and county business increased, it was found that the vaults were wholly inadequate to protect the records, and in fact, it was a question as to whether they would stand the test of a fire.

As the county offices got crowded the board of supervisors were forced to provide more room. Rooms were rented out in town for some of the offices. After the building of the city hall, the county rented the upper floor for a court room, and the upper room of the courthouse was divided up into offices.

There was a constant fear for the records, many of which had no protection from fire. This feeling grew until sometime in the '80s the proposition to build a new courthouse was submitted to the people, but it was overwhelmingly voted down.

The town of Gravity was by this time quite a village, and being a little nearer the geographical center of the county than Bedford, its citizens had county-seat aspirations, so from that section and the entire northwest part of the county voted solidly against the courthouse proposition.

The matter then rested until September, 1891, at the regular session of the board of supervisors. In the supervisors' record, under date of September 8th, we find the following:

Be it ordered by the board of supervisors of Taylor county, Iowa, that whereas the records of Taylor county are continually exposed to loss or damage, and, whereas the county offices in our courthouse are wholly inadequate to properly and safely keep the fast accumulating records, and *whereas*:

The county is continually at expense for rents, besides great inconvenience and annoyance. It is therefore ordered by the board at its regular session in September, 1891, that the proposition for the levy of a five mill tax on the taxable property of Taylor county, for the year 1891, and five mills for the year 1892, and five mills for the year 1893, be submitted to the qualified electors of Taylor county at the general election to be held on the third day of November, 1891. The money derived therefrom to be used in erecting a courthouse on the public square at Bedford, Taylor county, Iowa, to be constructed on or before January 1, 1895.



The auditor is hereby authorized to give notice of the submission of the foregoing, as required by Section 310 of the code of Iowa.

M. MILLER,  
*Auditor.*

WASHINGTON HALL,  
*Chairman.*

The auditor gave due notice and at once discussion began which waxed warmer as election day approached, and as there seemed to be a likelihood of the proposition being defeated owing to a misunderstanding of the call the board of supervisors issued the following statement:

OCTOBER 6TH. SPECIAL SESSION.

Board met in special session pursuant to special call, all the members being present, and it having come to the knowledge of the board that there was a misapprehension existing as to the amount, that a levy of five mills on the dollar for the years 1891, 1892 and 1893, respectively, would produce for a courthouse tax, it is ordered by the board that in no event shall the sum of over sixty-five thousand dollars be expended for a completed building, including the furnishing and completion throughout and ready for occupancy in all its parts.

It is therefore ordered by the board in case the proposition to build a courthouse shall prevail, it shall be the duty of the board, before making the levy tax for 1893, to ascertain what is the total amount of taxable property in Taylor county, Iowa, and if the board shall find that a tax of (5) five mills on the dollar on the then taxable property, for courthouse purposes when added to the amount realized for the years 1891 and 1892, for courthouse purposes, shall exceed the sum of sixty-five thousand dollars, then it shall be the duty of the board to make a levy of any less number of mills than five, that shall produce the sum of sixty-five thousand dollars, the purpose being to limit this board and its successors to a five mill tax on the dollar for the years 1891, 1892 and 1893, provided said tax shall be necessary to build a completed courthouse costing sixty-five thousand. But if said tax shall not be required, then that a less levy be made for 1893, so that only such sum shall be raised.

It is further ordered that should the proposition to build a courthouse prevail, that as soon as the tax for 1891 is paid, the board shall contract with a responsible party to erect a courthouse, the cost of which when completed and furnished, shall not exceed sixty-five thousand dollars as herein contemplated, and such contract shall so provide for the progress of the building, that the tax of one year shall be consumed before the next year's tax is paid into the treasury, to the end, that but one year's tax shall be in the treasury at one time.

M. MILLER,  
*Auditor.*

WASHINGTON HALL,  
*Chairman.*

In spite of this explanation by the board the proposition was voted down at the general election by about one hundred votes.

Various reasons were given and talked previous to election. Many thought it unnecessary to put so much money into a courthouse. This was one of the strong arguments that won many votes. In spite of figures given by friends of the proposition many feared the additional tax would be burdensome. Another

strong argument used especially by other towns was that the benefit to Bedford and vicinity would be so great in the way of increasing the value of real estate that the citizens should put up a bonus. Immediately after the election, friends of the proposition in Bedford and vicinity got together and subscribed ten thousand dollars and petitioned the board to call a special election to vote on the proposition again. It will be noted that the call is for a less expensive building.

Following is the copy of the supervisors record, pertaining to the matter: November 17, 1891, board met pursuant to adjournment. Members all present, and the matter of numerous petitions from various parts of the county asking that the board order that a special election be called to submit to the electors of Taylor county, Iowa, a proposition to vote a tax of forty thousand dollars on the taxable property of said Taylor county, Iowa, to be used for the purpose of erecting a courthouse on the public square in the town of Bedford, Taylor county, Iowa, coming up for hearing and the board having examined the numerous petitions filed asking the said election to be called and also being made to appear to the board that the citizens of Bedford and vicinity has raised ten thousand dollars to aid in the erection of a courthouse in Bedford, provided the electors of Taylor county, Iowa, would raise the sum of forty thousand dollars, by tax, for a like purpose, and it being further made to appear to the board that the citizens of Bedford and vicinity would pay the expense attending said special election. It is therefore ordered by the board that said special election be called and held at the various voting precincts in Taylor county, Iowa, on the 22d day of December, 1891, and at said elections on said date last aforesaid, the following propositions be submitted to the electors of said Taylor county, Iowa, viz:

FIRST. Those favoring the levy of a tax of forty thousand dollars on the taxable property of Taylor county, Iowa, one-third of the same to be levied for the year 1891, one-third for the year 1892, one-third for the year 1893, shall have on their ballots the words, either written or printed, "for the courthouse tax." Provided the tax be carried, the citizens of Bedford and vicinity shall pay into the county treasury the sum of ten thousand dollars within thirty days, from the date of the official canvass of said vote, and further, that the said tax of forty thousand dollars shall not become due or collectible unless the citizens of Bedford and vicinity shall pay said sum of ten thousand dollars into the county treasury, on or before the thirty days aforesaid.

SECOND. Those opposing the voting of said tax, will have, either written or printed on their ballots the words, "against the courthouse tax." It is further ordered by the board that in the event that said tax shall be voted, that they each individually and as a board declare that there shall no contract be made in reference to said courthouse that does not provide for a completed building ready for occupancy in all its parts, including furniture, vaults and heating apparatus, and that every expenditure that may be made in behalf of a courthouse, shall in no event exceed the forty thousand dollars voted by the people and the ten thousand dollars given by the citizens of Bedford and vicinity. And it is further ordered that in the event that the tax shall be voted that we will as soon as consistent with the public interest, not later than May, 1892, make a contract that shall consume the ten thousand dollars given by the citizens of Bedford and vicinity, and the tax of 1891, voted for such purpose, in the con-



struction of a courthouse, but we will so contract that when completed that it shall not exceed a total cost of fifty thousand dollars.

And it is further ordered by the board that the auditor be directed to give notice of said special election as by law required and in conformity with the proceedings had before the board in connection therewith.

Board adjourned to December 24, 1891.

WASHINGTON HALL,  
Chairman.

M. MILLER,  
Auditor.

On the call the election was held with the results appended to the supervisor's record following:

DECEMBER 24, 1891.

Board met pursuant to adjournment at 10:30 a. m., at which meeting there were present, Supervisors J. R. Cooper and J. M. Thompson. Chairman Washington Hull being absent. J. R. Cooper was elected chairman *pro tem*. At 12 o'clock the board opened the poll books and began the canvass of the votes cast at the special election held December 22, 1891, for the purpose of voting on the proposition submitted for a courthouse tax, and found the following to be the vote cast by townships:

	For	Against	Total
Bedford .....	489	1	490
Benton .....	114	3	117
Clayton .....	136	6	142
Clearfield .....	37	111	148
Dallas .....	11	73	84
Grant .....	5	68	73
Gay .....	76	28	104
Grove .....	18	107	125
Holt .....	2	172	174
Jackson .....	108	0	108
Jefferson .....	160	55	215
Mason .....	114	33	147
Marshall .....	47	166	213
New Market .....	140	75	215
Nodaway .....	17	184	201
Polk .....	126	16	142
Platte .....	195	57	252
Ross .....	167	3	170
Washington .....	20	274	294
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1982	1432	3414

And it appearing from the canvass of the vote of all the voting precincts of Taylor county, Iowa, that there was a majority of five hundred and fifty votes cast in favor of voting a tax of forty thousand dollars on the taxable property of Taylor county, Iowa, and by virtue of the authority in us vested, by reason of said special election, we do hereby levy a tax of three mills on the dollar on



NEW COURT HOUSE





all the taxable property of Taylor county, Iowa, for the year 1891, which will now produce on the present valuation of four million, four hundred and eighty-eight thousand and eighty-eight dollars, the sum of thirteen thousand, four hundred and sixty-four dollars and twenty-six cents, if the same shall all be realized. As to the tax for 1892 and 1893, voted at said special election the board takes no action, except the right to make such further levies, for the years 1892 and 1893, which when added to the present levy of 1891 aforesaid, shall produce the sum of forty thousand dollars, authorized to be levied by the electors at said special election, and the county auditor is by the board directed to place the sum of three mills on the dollar on the tax lists of said Taylor county, Iowa, for the year 1891, and extend the same on all the taxable property of said county for said year as such courthouse tax.

And now to-wit—It appearing to the board that the expenses growing out of the special election amounts on claims filed and allowed by the board to the sum of three hundred and three dollars and seventy-five cents, and it further appears to the board that B. F. Bailey, on behalf of the citizens of Bedford and vicinity, has paid said sum into the county treasury, to be paid to the claimants upon demand.

Therefore the auditor is directed to draw county warrants on the county treasurer for said several claims, and the treasurer is directed to pay said warrants so drawn from said funds so paid by the citizens aforesaid.

Board adjourned to session in course.

M. MILLER,  
*Auditor.*

J. R. COOPER,  
*Chairman Pro Tem.*

At an adjourned meeting of the board, February 8, 1892, the board selected plans for a new courthouse submitted by F. N. Ellis, Omaha, Nebraska.

On April 8, 1892, the board opened the bids for the building of the courthouse.

In the board proceedings the following entry occurs: Board met pursuant to adjournment at 1:30 p. m. and proceeded to open bids filed by contractors for the building of the Taylor county courthouse. Allan H. Chaffee of Corning, Iowa, being the lowest bidder was awarded the contract for thirty-eight thousand, eight hundred and ten dollars.

M. MILLER,  
*Auditor.*

J. R. COOPER,  
*Chairman.*

The future levies for 1892 and 1893 were anticipated by a five per cent loan from the Bedford Bank. The work progressed rapidly and the corner stone was laid in June, 1892, and was finished in the spring. May 6, 1893, began the work of moving in. The building is a model of neatness and convenience and in architectural beauty it has no equal in southwest Iowa. That such a building could be put up for less than fifty thousand dollars is a matter of surprise to visitors.

The contractor, Mr. Chaffee, actually lost money on his contract, but the people were so pleased with the building and so admired the spirit of Mr. Chaffee in fulfilling his contract faithfully in spite of his loss, that the board allowed him



one thousand dollars more than the contract called for and was presented a gold watch by the friends he made while engaged on the work here.

It is not necessary to give a description of the building and equipment as this work is designed for citizens of the county, and the description is unnecessary, as all Taylor county people some time or other visit the county seat. Suffice it to say, that in spite of the opposition shown to the proposition in some parts of the county, all feel proud of the building, and glad of the fact that now the records are secure from fire at least.

#### THE COUNTY JAIL.

In the matter of providing a suitable jail for the incarceration of its criminals, Taylor county was much slower to move than many of its neighbors. The reason for this is doubtless found in the fact that there has been much of the time that a jail was unnecessary as the criminal list has always been small. Being a purely agricultural county, populated by farmers from the neighboring states on the east, having no large towns or cities, the county attracted only the people of a moral and law abiding character; hence, the small per cent of criminals. For many years, the few prisoners were taken to the jails of other counties, but in time the question of a county jail came up and according to the records, at the June session of the board of supervisors, for 1874, the following resolution was offered:

*Resolved*, That D. B. Hoover, together with the auditor, be empowered to ascertain the cost of erecting a building on the southeast corner of the public square, twenty by twenty-four feet, and two stories high, the lower part to have two cells, ten by twelve feet, to be cased with iron, to be used as a jail, and if the probable cost, completed, including ironing and foundation, will not exceed one thousand, two hundred dollars, that they proceed to let the contract for the erection of said building.

This resolution was adopted, and the jail built. The cells were put in, and the upper story was used for jury rooms. The building was a cheap affair, the cells insecure, and it was not long until it was found to be inadequate, and it was deemed necessary to build another jail. The matter came up in board meeting in 1880, and the report of the committee bears the date of January, 1881, having been made to the board of supervisors during the session of that month. Following is the report:

On the 17th of September the committee contracted with P. J. Pauley & Bros., through their agents, Blackmar, Dorr & Co., for two steel-clad cells; also an iron outside door and window guards, the cost of the same to be three thousand, eight hundred and fifteen dollars.

December 18th the committee met, and after a careful examination of the jail cells, they were accepted, and the contract price—three thousand, eight hundred and fifteen dollars—was paid to Blackmar, Dorr & Co., agents of the said P. J. Pauley & Bros. In addition to the foregoing there were fourteen dollars freight paid on window guards and outside door, making a total cost of the iron work on jail and cells of three thousand, eight hundred and twenty-nine dollars.

On October 9th the committee met and contracted with Harley Greenlee to build a jail building for the sum of seven hundred and fifty dollars, all of which is respectfully submitted.

W. P. SHERWOOD,  
*Chairman Building Committee.*

This jail served all the purposes intended for several years. As the town had no adequate sewage system the vaults could not be properly drained, and in time complaints came up regarding the sanitary condition of the building. This led to more careful investigation which established the fact that the jail was in such a condition that it endangered the health of inmates. The board made unsuccessful attempts to remedy this, so the court forbade the sheriff confining prisoners in it. This necessitated taking prisoners to jails in adjoining counties, which was expensive as well as inconvenient. This led to agitation of the question of a new jail, which in time took such shape that the board, in 1901, let the contract for a jail and sheriff's residence to Geo. W. Grote. The old cells were used and the entire cost was less than five thousand dollars, and we have a building that is substantial and provides comfortable quarters for the sheriff in close proximity to his prisoners, when he has them, which has been a rare thing for the past two years.

The building stands near the southeast corner of the square, and is in point of beauty a fit companion piece for our stately courthouse.

#### THE POOR FARM.

Since the dawn of history charitable institutions have existed in some form. With the advance in knowledge, civilization, has come a higher sense of the duty resting on men to care for their less fortunate fellows, and in consequence there has resulted a better understanding of the needs of humanity and better methods of meeting them. Institutions of a charitable nature have sprung up in every land, more or less perfect in their organization and administration, all of which are doing a noble work for humanity. But, as is more interesting to us, our own land is in no respect behind other lands in its care for the sick, the poor and the unfortunate. In every state are numerous institutions cared for at public expense, and in nearly every county the same feeling of kindness finds expression in the maintenance of a home for the same classes. The care of this county for the unfortunate in life has been most kind. Busied with individual cares and necessities as its inhabitants have been, they, nevertheless, have found opportunity to pause and inquire into the condition of the poor of the county. In the earlier days it was the custom to place a family in charge of one or more unfortunates, for which a stated amount was paid for providing food and clothing, the family being required to give bonds for the faithful performance of their duty. A case in point, serving to illustrate all these particulars is found on the records of this county, affecting, however, Ringgold county, then under the jurisdiction of Taylor. The entry is given verbatim:

OCTOBER, 18 DAY, 1852.

Know all men by these presents that I, Jerry Harper, of the county of Ringgold and the state of Iowa, for and in Consideration of the sum of one hundred



dollars to me in hand paide is held and firmly Bound unto Sarey Ann—of the County and State a fore Said to furnish the said Sarey Ann—all the nesenary provisions and Clothing for herself and her foure Children and all Necessary fuel for the fire and all the Nesenary medisins and employ all phisians and pay all Reasonable Doctors bills and log all the heavy wood for the fire for the termination of foure years from this present date for the payment of the above obligation I have executed my note.

JERRY HARPER.

Attest: LOTT HOBBS.

Private families often cared for persons in this way, and this is but one of the numerous instances of the past. The attention of the county was aroused to the matter, and the first official act relative to providing a home for this class was in the year 1868. At the September session of the board of supervisors that year, Supervisor Hamblin offered the following resolution which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the committee on paupers be and hereby is requested to take the necessary steps to find suitable location for a farm of not less than one hundred and sixty acres, upon which to build a county poor house, and report at the next session of this board.

This committee reported in the November session of the board, and recommended the purchase of the southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 29, township 69, range 33. This report was accepted and a committee appointed to make the purchase of this land "or other suitable premises for a poor farm, and report at the next meeting." The record of the January session of 1869 contains the following entry:

The special committee on poor farm report that they purchased the southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 29, township 69, range 33, for nine hundred and sixty dollars cash, or one thousand dollars in county warrants, and recommend to purchase the same for nine hundred and eighty dollars; four hundred and ninety dollars cash, and four hundred and ninety dollars in warrants. Adopted.

The records show no further action in the matter until the June session of the board, 1878. The following entry was then made, from which it is gathered that more land had been required and its purchase authorized by the board of supervisors:

Comes now W. D. Blackburn, committee on poor farm, and reports that on April 23, 1878, he purchased of John S. Boyd, for Taylor county, to be added to the poor farm of said county, the northeast quarter of section 29, township 69, range 33, containing 173.51 acres at fifteen dollars per acre. Adopted.

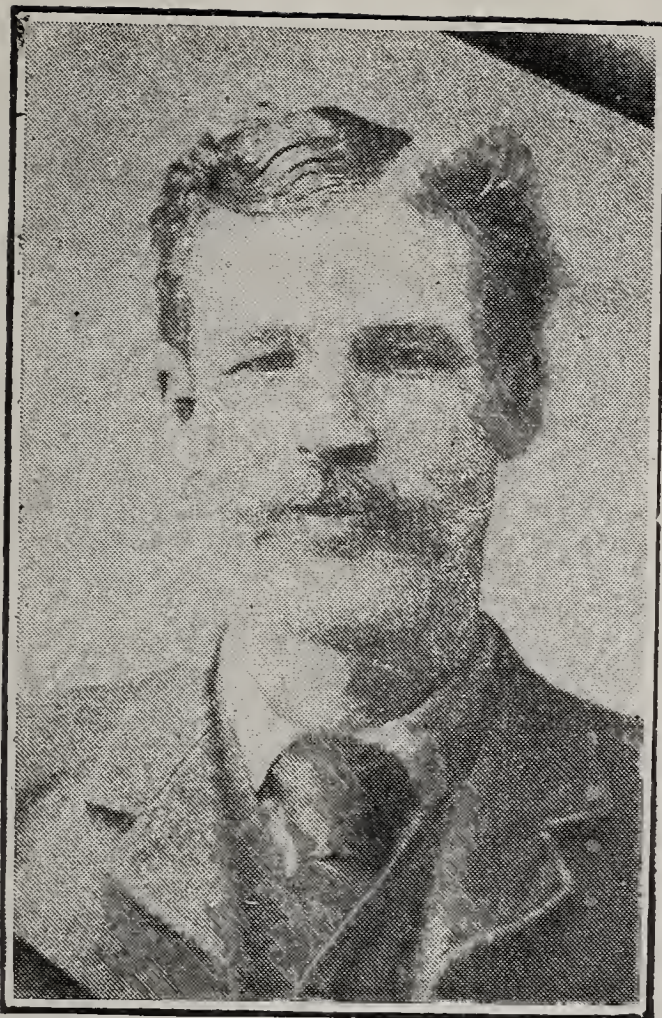
It subsequently became necessary to add to the buildings on the poor farm, and the proper committee was appointed, which reported at the January term of 1881 as follows:

*To the honorable Board of Supervisors of Taylor county, Iowa.*

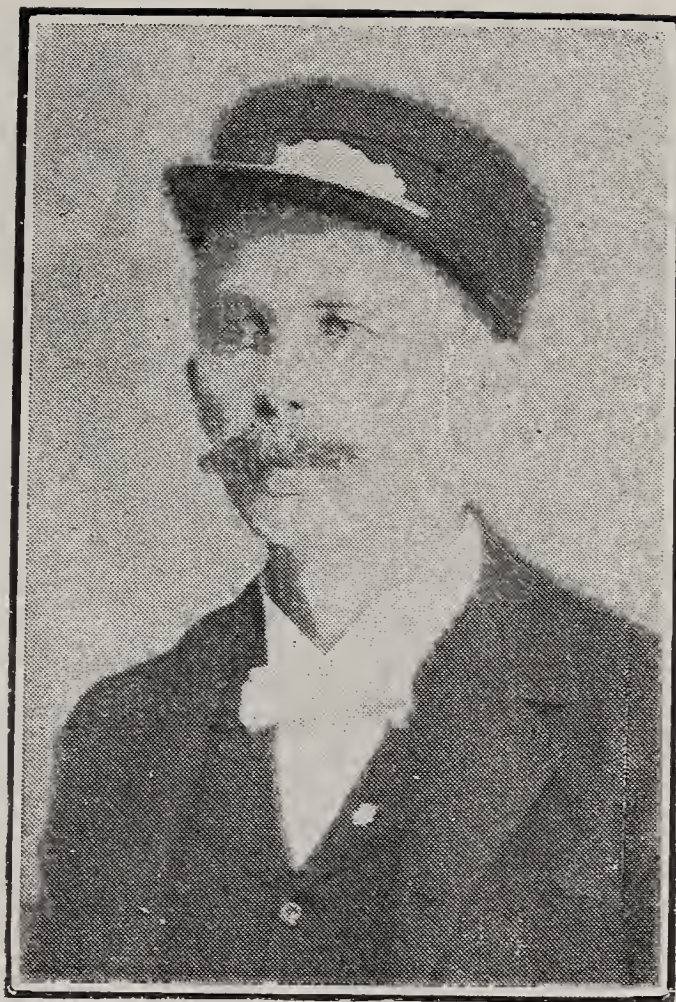
GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to submit the following report, as chairman of the building committee appointed by the board of supervisors for the purpose of building a house and barn on the Taylor county poor farm, and a jail in the town of Bedford:

On August 14, 1880, the committee contracted with R. H. Delmege to build a house and barn, to correspond with plans and specifications submitted by W. K.





J. H. Dougherty  
Sheriff



A. D. Nye  
County Treasurer



T. M. Dougherty  
County Attorney



W. H. Lake  
County Auditor





Ball, for the sum of four thousand, nine hundred and seventeen dollars, the house to cost four thousand, one hundred and twenty-seven dollars and barn to cost seven hundred and ninety dollars.

On December 14th the committee accepted the house and barn and paid the contract price, four thousand, nine hundred and seventeen dollars and two hundred and sixty dollars and fifty-one cents for additional work done on house and barn not specified in plans and specifications, making a total cost of both buildings of five thousand, one hundred and seventy-seven dollars and fifty-one cents.

W. P. SHERWOOD,  
*Chairman Building Committee.*

Additional improvements have been made from year to year in the way of barns and other outbuildings. The house has been entirely remodeled, and as recent as last year an addition was built, on account of the increased number of inmates. The farm comprises a half section and is one of the most valuable in the county. James Templeton is the present steward and his report, which may be seen in the financial report of the county, will give a fair idea of the management of Taylor county's home for the needy.

#### COUNTY OFFICERS, 1908-1909.

Under the title, "Election returns," found elsewhere, the names of the present county officers are given, but for convenience we give the list here in compiled form: W. H. Lake, county auditor; A. D. Nye, treasurer; Ren H. Fuller, clerk; Mary E. Osborn, recorder; J. H. Dougherty, sheriff; T. M. Dougherty, attorney; E. E. Kuhn, superintendent of schools; Dr. C. M. Paschal, coroner; J. C. Askren, surveyor; C. N. Hargadin, chairman board of supervisors; W. G. Sharp, member board of supervisors; Paul Hunter, member board of supervisors; W. P. Peterman, Norval Reeves, and M. R. Chandler, soldiers relief commission; Ren H. Fuller, L. T. McCoun, and C. M. Paschal, insane commissioners; J. R. Anderson, janitor of courthouse; James Templeton, steward county farm; Frank Snyder, overseer of poor for Bedford; H. M. Towner and H. K. Evans, judges of district court; W. M. Hyland and S. S. Wright, court reporters; grand jurors for 1909 are Charles Leonard, Holt township, Joseph Doubit, Grant township, J. T. Miller, Mason township, J. S. Bowman, Nodaway township, Wm. McFarland, Washington township, George Black, Platte township, B. A. Toler, Grove township, John Hindman, Bedford township, T. R. Simons, Jefferson township, I. L. Bishop, Benton township, W. H. Mahan, Ross township, H. L. McAnary, Dallas township.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT, 1908.

This report is compiled annually by the county auditor, in compliance with a state law governing county matters, and is made for the purpose of showing the citizens of the county, where and how their money has been expended. This report for 1908, will show the growth of county business since the organization, and will be useful in making comparisons, years hence, when our county has made still greater advancement in wealth and institutions. Following is a condensed report of the expenditures for the year:



EXPENDITURES FROM THE COUNTY FUND FOR THE YEAR 1908.

*Board of Supervisors.*

Paul Hunter—	
Session and mileage .....	\$117.10
Committee work and mileage.....	209.15
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Total .....	\$326.25
C. N. Hargadin—	
Session and mileage .....	\$108.80
Committee work and mileage.....	183.20
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Total .....	\$292.00
W. G. Sharp—	
Session and mileage .....	\$112.40
Committee work and mileage.....	98.76
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$211.16
S. L. Payton—	
Session and mileage .....	\$13.00
Committee work and mileage.....	4.00
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Total . . . . .	\$17.00
Mr. Payton's term expiring he served as a member of the board for only three days in 1908	
Livery hire paid on account of board of supervisors to the amount of \$8.50, same being for trips to the county farm.	

*County Auditor.*

W. H. Lake, salary.....	\$1,399.98
Eva Lake, salary as deputy.....	300.00
Postage for office .....	47.88
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$1,747.86

*County Treasurer.*

W. F. Evans, salary.....	\$1,500.00
Ethel Evans, salary as deputy.....	300.00
Postage and other incidentals.....	154.41
Ed. E. Cass, per cent. on collections.....	266.08
Postage for deputy collector.....	78.01
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Total .....	\$2,298.50

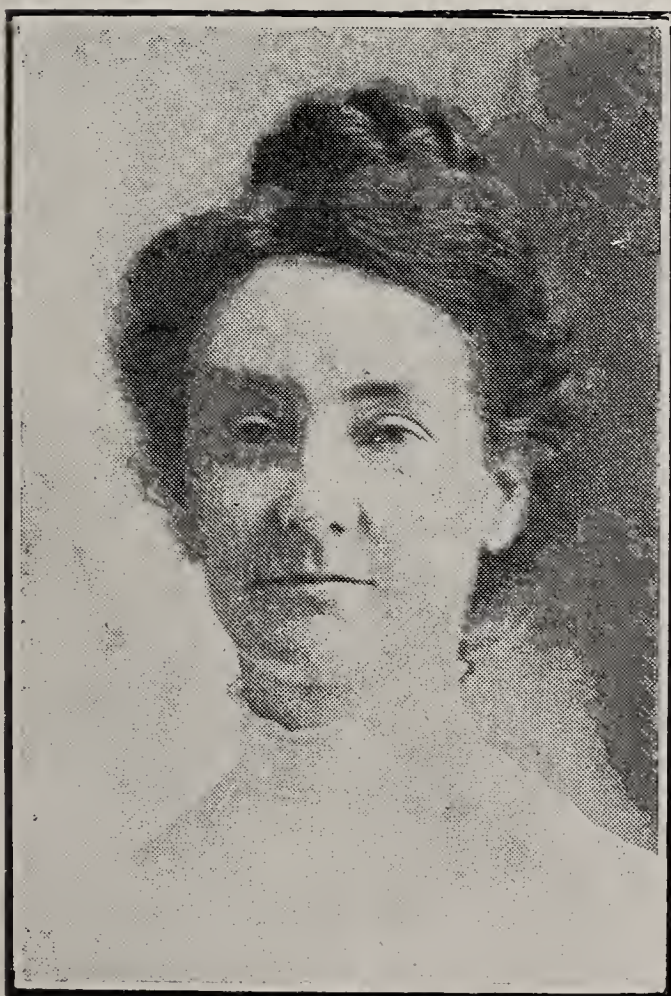
*Clerk District Court.*

T. G. Stewart, part salary.....	\$169.32
Postage .....	43.76
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\$213.08	

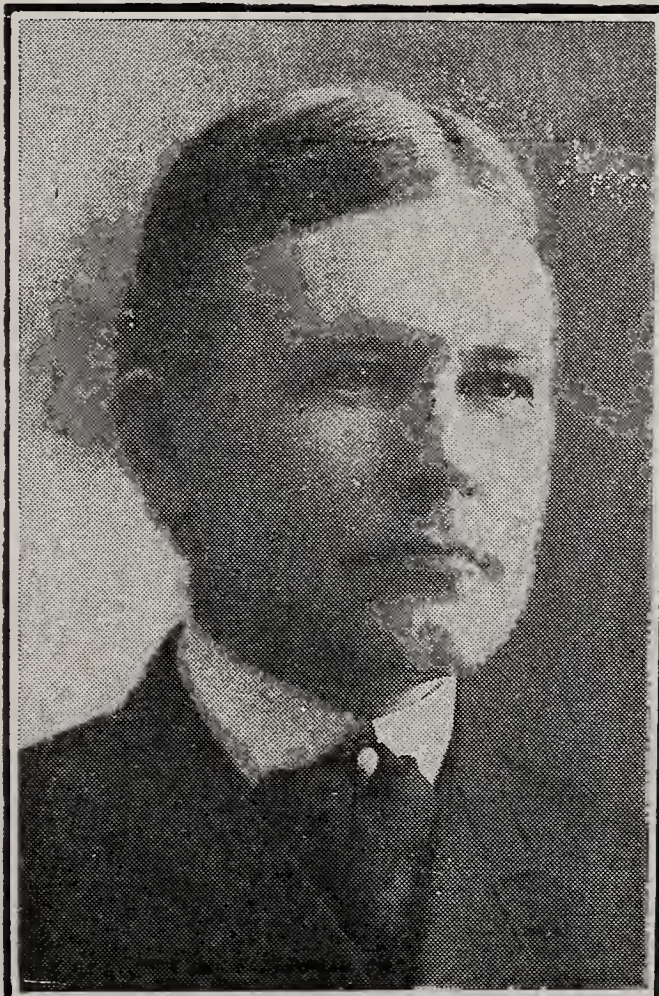




E. E. Kuhn  
County Superintendent of Schools



Miss Mary E. Osborn  
County Recorder



Rev. H. Fuller  
District Clerk





Balance of clerk's salary of \$1,300.00 and deputy's salary of \$300.00 paid from fees of office. (See clerk's annual report elsewhere in this book.)

*County Recorder.*

K. E. Stephens, part salary.....	\$14.60
Postage .....	43.68
	<hr/>
	\$58.28

Balance of recorder's salary of \$1,200.00 and deputy's salary of \$300.00 paid from fees of office. (See recorder's annual report on another page in this book.)

*County Superintendent.*

E. E. Kuhn, salary.....	\$1,250.02
Extra help in office.....	23.00
Postage .....	72.36
Expense visiting schools .....	91.24
	<hr/>
	\$1,436.62

*County Attorney.*

M. R. Brant, salary.....	\$ 999.98
Assistant county attorneys .....	508.59
Commissions on fines, etc.....	206.40
	<hr/>
	\$1,714.97

Fees paid attorneys appointed by court to defend prisoners, \$130.00.  
County attorneys' incidental expense account paid, \$30.90.

*Sheriff.*

J. H. Humphrey, part salary, etc.....	\$ 500.83
Fees, expenses, etc.....	808.48
J. H. Humphrey, boarding prisoners .....	825.23
Deputy sheriff services .....	4.00
Postage .....	10.62
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$2,149.16

*Jail Expenses.*

Repairs .....	\$ 60.91
Other jail expenses .....	54.32
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$115.23

*Coroner.*

Coroner's fees .....	\$19.10
Clerk coroner's inquest .....	3.00
Coroner's jury .....	4.00
Witnesses, coroner's inquests .....	29.60
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$55.70



*Janitor and Courthouse Expense.*

J. R. Anderson, salary .....	\$ 540.00
J. R. Anderson, supplies purchased.....	134.90
Paid for light and water .....	179.85
Paid for fuel .....	399.52
Paid for repairs .....	216.59
Paid for fixtures .....	5.40
Paid for fire insurance on building .....	637.50
T. A. Meredith, night watch .....	60.00
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	\$2,173.76

*Printing, Office Supplies, School Books, Etc.*

Publishing board proceedings .....	\$ 991.09
Printing, job work, etc. ....	766.30
General office supplies, blank books, papers, etc. ....	1,626.74
School books .....	1,050.69
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	\$4,434.82

*Justice Courts.*

Justice Peace fees, criminal .....	\$140.30
Jurors in J. P. court .....	3.00
Reporter in J. P. court .....	2.00
Witness in J. P. court .....	51.80
Constables in J. P. courts .....	75.14
	<hr/>
	\$272.24

*Election Expenses.**Primary and General.*

Election judges .....	\$646.00
Election clerks .....	377.25
Printing ballots .....	777.25
Delivering and returning ballots .....	149.45
Election supplies .....	360.90
Election notices published .....	493.40
Room rent, fuel, lights, constables, etc .....	101.93
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	\$2,906.18

The above schedule does not include all the expense incurred in holding the two elections of 1908, it being only such bills that have actually been paid.

*District Court Expenses.*

Trial jurors .....	\$1,390.50
Meals for jurors .....	32.25
Witnesses in district court .....	235.45
Court reporters .....	368.17
District court bailiffs .....	252.00
Grand jurors .....	475.40

Bailiffs grand jury .....	\$ 48.00
Clerks grand jury .....	48.00
Witnesses before grand jury .....	205.10

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\$3,054.87

*Miscellaneous Items.*

Township trustees .....	\$ 652.80
Township clerks .....	186.25
Assessors .....	2,013.50
Miscellaneous quarantine and expenses in contagious cases...	3,046.40
Bounty on wild animals .....	84.00
Domestic animals killed by dogs .....	1,024.71
Bounty on gophers .....	477.20
Highway costs .....	22.12

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\$7,506.98

Freight paid .....	121.27
Telephone service .....	210.55

*County Road Fund.*

Paid to township clerks .....	\$3,215.00
Paid for materials .....	522.24
Paid for labor .....	1,057.04

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\$4,794.28

*Cost of Bridges and Repair Work.*

Bridge material, lumber .....	\$ 5,826.20
Steel bridges and culverts .....	11,032.64
Labor, bridge crews .....	6,503.35
Labor, sundry repair work .....	2,752.27
Hardware and paint .....	236.95
Damages, defective bridges .....	203.80

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\$26,555.21

*County Farm.*

(For support of the poor.)

James Templeton, steward .....	\$ 980.00
Repairs .....	1,358.00
Fuel .....	218.27
Medical attendance .....	305.10
Furnishings .....	326.61
Burials .....	20.00

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\$3,207.98

Paid to steward by county to purchase feeding cattle and converted into maintenance fund.



*Paupers.*

(Outside county farm.)

House rent .....	\$ 38.50
Allowances .....	78.00
Provisions .....	934.09
Fuel .....	452.35
Medical aid .....	1,303.35
Burial expenses .....	63.50
Placing poor children in homes .....	63.35
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	\$2,933.14

*Feeble Minded Institution.*

Clothing for inmates of institution .....	\$ 97.44
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*Insane Fund.*

Insane commissioners .....	\$ 63.00
Sheriff, conveying patients .....	45.00
Witnesses .....	49.25
Support patients at hospital .....	3,348.80
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	\$3,506.05

*Soldiers' Home.*

Relief granted by commission .....	\$915.00
Burial expenses .....	101.65
Nurse hire .....	4.00
Head stones, grave markers .....	7.00
W. P. Peterman, member commission .....	25.60
M. R. Chandler, member commission .....	8.00
N. Reeves, member commission .....	8.00
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	\$1,069.25

*Teachers' Institute.*

Instructors and rent .....	\$1,176.00
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## COUNTY FUNDS.

*Condition of Various Funds.*

In the hands of the county treasurer at the close of fiscal year 1908.

State fund, general revenue .....	\$ 180.63
State university .....	10.66
State college .....	10.66
State normal .....	5.33
County fund .....	3,400.41
County school fund .....	2,087.86
Poor fund .....	2,770.55
Teachers' fund .....	8,920.10
Schoolhouse fund .....	807.51
Contingent fund .....	2,573.44

General township fund .....	\$ 86.93
Domestic animal fund .....	900.18
Soldiers' relief fund .....	513.54
County road fund .....	4,535.68
Cemetery fund .....	262.75
District road fund .....	856.35
City fund .....	2,754.61
Insane fund .....	2,056.30
School road fund .....	309.36
Institute fund .....	18.86
Permanent school fund .....	2,900.94
Permanent school interest .....	929.76
Money due heirs, etc .....	1,232.96
Bedford school bond fund .....	443.40
Lenox city bond fund .....	118.65
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	\$38,687.33
Bridge fund overdrawn .....	419.33
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Net amount on hand .....	\$38,268.00

*Amounts Levied.*

For various funds for year 1908 as shown by the tax lists delivered to county treasurer for collection. ....

State fund general revenue .....	\$17,792.61
State university .....	1,016.72
State college .....	1,016.72
State normal .....	508.36
County fund .....	27,959.68
County school fund .....	5,083.59
Bridge fund .....	20,334.53
Insane fund .....	3,558.51
County road fund .....	5,083.59
Soldiers' relief fund .....	1,525.02
Teachers' fund .....	55,582.21
Schoolhouse fund .....	4,862.06
Contingent fund .....	15,249.20
District road fund .....	15,956.19
Cemetery fund .....	1,022.50
City fund .....	9,903.66
Water fund .....	1,890.57
City bond fund .....	913.12
City grade .....	1,545.37
City improvement fund .....	802.17
Board of health fund .....	1,081.32
School building bond fund .....	3,194.19
General township fund .....	211.91



City lighting fund .....	\$ 1,134.34
City road fund .....	455.63
Domestic animal fund dog tax .....	1,592.00
Delinquent road poll .....	1,096.70
State poll tax .....	2,025.00

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\$202,397.47

## COUNTY TREASURER'S REPORT.

*Receipts.*

Cash on hand, June 1, 1908 .....	\$58,898.42
1907 tax collected .....	76,786.47
1906 tax collected .....	1,088.70
1905 tax collected .....	908.36
1904 tax collected .....	822.15
1902 tax collected .....	3.67
Tax sale collections .....	772.82
State by laws sold .....	12.00 ..
State by transfer from insane .....	2,532.00
State by transfer from poor .....	72.68
State by transfer from Perm. int. ....	418.62
County fund by county superintendent .....	728.35
County fund by county auditor .....	1,292.85
County fund by clerk .....	124.74
County fund, unclaimed fees returned .....	3.70
County fund by interest on deposits .....	427.41
County fund by transfer from perm. int. ....	857.40
County school by clerk .....	615.00
County school by fines .....	76.50
Bridge fund by county auditor .....	28.10
Poor fund by county auditor .....	39.50
Insane fund by county auditor .....	191.65
Perm. school principal by collections .....	3,740.00
Perm. school interest by collections .....	951.19
Institute fund by county superintendent .....	860.00
Institute by transfer from county fund .....	200.00
City fund by transfer from county road .....	984.64

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\$153,436.92

*Disbursements.*

Paid state treasurer general revenue .....	\$10,799.22
Paid state treasurer university fund .....	466.31
Paid state treasurer college fund .....	466.31
Paid state treasurer normal fund .....	232.94
Paid county warrants .....	23,299.73
Paid county school orders .....	3,708.54
Paid bridge warrants .....	9,503.14
Paid poor warrants .....	1,552.53

Paid county road warrants .....	\$ 5,583.29
Paid teachers' orders .....	25,736.84
Paid school house orders .....	2,175.10
Paid contingent orders .....	6,970.75
Paid general township fund to township clerks .....	203.24
Paid soldiers' relief warrants .....	553.89
Paid cemetery fund to township clerks .....	479.25
Paid district road fund to township clerks .....	4,648.19
Paid insane warrants .....	2,633.02
Perm. school principal loans.....	1,500.00
Perm. school interest orders paid .....	2,204.08
Paid institute warrants .....	1,116.00
Paid city fund to city treasurer .....	7,775.92
Bedford school bond fund to school treasurer .....	2,031.19
Lenox city bond fund paid city treasurer .....	282.57
Clearfield park fund paid city treasurer .....	64.66
School road fund paid school treasurer .....	497.50
Paid domestic animal warrants .....	684.71
Cash on hand and in banks .....	38,268.00
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	\$153,436.92

COUNTY AUDITOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

*Receipts.*

Balance on hand last report .....	\$145.10
For transferring 886 deeds .....	221.50
For recording 28 official bonds .....	14.00
For issuing 69 tax redemption certificates .....	17.25
For sale of laws .....	12.00
For bridge material sold .....	242.21
For insane accounts collected .....	806.85
For one half primary election expense from state auditor .....	810.93
For estray notice .....	.50
Miscellaneous collections .....	426.27
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	\$2,696.61

*Disbursements.*

Postage, postoffice box rent, etc. ....	\$ 22.60
Repairs on adding machine .....	.50
Paid county treasurer .....	2,673.51
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	\$2,696.61

CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT. ANNUAL REPORT OF FEES.

(Recompilation.)

*Receipts.*

Fees collected January, February, March, 1908 .....	\$438.60
Fees collected April, May, June .....	344.30
Fees collected July, August .....	173.15



Fees collected September, October .....	\$ 261.30
Fees collected November, December .....	305.00
County warrants received to apply on salary .....	169.32
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	\$1,696.67

*Disbursements.*

Clerk's salary and deputy for 1908 .....	\$1,599.98
Clerk's salary and deputy three days, 1909 .....	13.00
Incidental office expense, 1908 .....	36.65
Paid to W. F. Evans, county treasurer .....	47.04
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	\$1,696.67

## CLERK'S ANNUAL REPORT OF FINES COLLECTED.

State vs. E. S. Chesbro, fine .....	\$100.00
State vs. Lyman Lowery, fine and interest .....	515.00
State vs. F. W. Bailey, fine and interest .....	513.42
State vs. F. E. Hess, fine .....	500.00
State vs. Ed. Meredith, fine .....	500.00

T. G. STEWART, Clerk.

## RECORDER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

*Disbursements.*

Salary, January 1, 1908 to January 1, 1909 .....	\$1,200.00
Deputy hire, January 1, 1908 to January 1, 1909 .....	300.00
Paid for stamps and postoffice box rent, 1908 .....	51.40
Cash to county treasurer .....	126.45
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	\$1,677.85

*Receipts.*

Fees, quarter ending March 31 .....	\$712.45
Fees, quarter ending June 30 .....	358.80
Fees quarter ending September 30 .....	236.50
Fees, quarter ending December 31 .....	343.10
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	\$1,677.85

## SHERIFF'S ANNUAL REPORT OF FEES RECEIVED.

Serving processes in civil suits .....	\$437.65
Serving processes in criminal suits .....	496.46
Summoning grand and trial jurors .....	101.90
Collecting and paying over money .....	49.93
Making certificates, deeds, and bills of sale .....	17.00
Attending before judge with prisoners .....	4.00
Conveying convicts and insane patients .....	32.20
Salary .....	200.00
Civil mileage earned for 1908 .....	387.67
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	\$1,726.81

Received on salary .....	\$200.00	
Received on civil fees .....	315.73	
Received on criminal fees .....	444.40	
Received on civil mileage .....	232.52	
Received money paid out in criminal business .....	190.16	
Due on civil mileage .....	155.15	
Due on civil fees unpaid January 1, 1909 .....	188.85	
		<hr/>
		\$1,726.81
Fees unpaid .....	\$188.85	
Mileage retained .....	155.15	344.00
		<hr/>
Fees earned less fees unpaid .....	\$1,382.81	
Salary provided by statute .....	1,800.00	
Fees earned less fees unpaid .....	1,382.81	
		<hr/>
Balance due sheriff from county .....	\$ 417.19	

## COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT OF INSTITUTE FUND.

*Receipts.*

Balance on hand January 1, 1908 .....	\$ 50.36
One half of examinations .....	89.00
Institute enrollment fees .....	117.00
Registration fees .....	234.00
Summer school tuition .....	393.50
State appropriation .....	50.00
County appropriation .....	200.00
Other sources .....	1.00
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	\$1,134.86

*Disbursements.*

F. O. Belzer .....	\$ 60.00
E. R. Sanford .....	60.00
F. E. Howard .....	60.00
Laura Bowman .....	60.00
Allan Peterson .....	50.00
Ella Wood .....	40.00
Thomas L. Kuhn .....	25.00
John Cameron .....	25.00
Arla Dunning .....	6.00
F. O. Belzer .....	170.00
E. R. Sanford .....	140.00
Allan Peterson .....	100.00
Laura Bowman .....	120.00
Ella Wood .....	60.00
W. J. Guthrie .....	13.35



F. E. Howard .....	\$ 126.65
By balance .....	18.86
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	\$1,134.86

ANNUAL REPORT—STEWARD COUNTY FARM.

*Receipts.*

Balance on hand, January 1, 1908 .....	\$ 154.42
Received from sale of hogs .....	2,463.54
Received from sale of cattle .....	1,979.06
Received from sale of horses .....	285.00
Received from sale of grain .....	531.91
Received from sale of poultry, butter, eggs and cream.....	101.42
Received from sale of fruit .....	29.15
Received from miscellaneous sales .....	1,009.13
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	\$6,553.63

*Disbursements.*

Paid for provisions .....	\$ 491.59
Paid for clothing .....	168.67
Paid for fuel and lights .....	49.86
Paid for repairs .....	186.90
Paid for salaries and wages .....	1,590.17
Paid for house furnishings .....	33.83
Paid for permanent improvements .....	439.59
Paid for grains and feed .....	1,819.34
Paid for live stock .....	1,409.19
Paid for sundries .....	102.25
Balance on hand, January 1, 1909.....	262.24
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	\$6,553.63

The following number of inmates have been cared for during the year: Number of insane, four; number of others, not classed as insane, seventeen; total, twenty-one.

Number died during the year, three; number discharged during the year, one; number admitted during the year, three.

Number of inmates, January 1, 1909: Insane, three; not classed as insane, fourteen; total, seventeen.

*Inventory of live stock on hand.*

	Jan. 1, 1908.	Jan. 1, 1909.
Cattle .....	37	53
Horses .....	14	13
Hogs .....	178	157
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	229	183

STATEMENT OF TAX LEVIES, IN MILLS IN TAYLOR COUNTY, IOWA,  
FOR THE YEAR, 1908.

General tax.

State (general revenue)	3.5
State university	.2
State Agricultural College	.2
State normal school	.1
County fund	5.5
Bridge	4.0
County school	1.0
Insane	.7
County road	1.0
Soldier's relief	.3
Total	16.5

TOWN, TOWNSHIP OR DISTRICT	Teachers.	Contingent	School House	School Bond	District Road	General Twp.	Cemetery	Bd. of Health	Consolidated	Total
Benton	7.6	1.1	5.2	.7	4.0	..	..	..	16.5	35.1
Clayton	8.6	2.2	..	..	4.0	..	..	..	16.5	31.3
Dallas	10.0	2.3	..	..	4.0	..	.7	.1	16.5	33.6
Gay	10.4	2.3	..	..	4.0	..	..	.1	16.5	33.3
Grant	10.0	2.0	..	..	4.0	..	..	.2	16.5	32.7
Grove	11.8	2.4	..	..	4.0	..	.3	.3	16.5	35.3
Mason	8.4	1.0	..	..	3.75	..	.25	.2	16.5	30.1
Marshall	8.7	1.7	..	..	4.0	..	..	.2	16.5	31.1
Nodaway	9.7	2.1	..	..	4.0	..	..	..	16.5	32.3
Platte	5.6	1.8	..	..	4.0	..	1	..	16.5	28.9
Polk	4.8	1.8	..	..	3.8	..	.2	.2	16.5	27.3
Buchanan, Ind.	7.0	4.3	..	..	3.8	..	.2	.2	16.5	32.0
Washington	8.6	1.5	3.0	..	4.0	..	.5	..	16.5	34.1
Antioch, Ind.	9.0	2.0	..	..	4.0	..	..	..	16.5	31.5
Chenoworth Grove Ind.	12.0	3.5	..	..	4.0	..	..	..	16.5	36.0
Fairview Ind.	11.0	4.2	..	10.4	4.0	..	..	..	16.5	46.1
Gravel Point Ind.	12.0	2.0	..	..	4.0	..	..	..	16.5	34.5
Holt Ind.	4.2	1.1	..	..	4.0	..	..	..	16.5	25.8
Holt Center Ind.	12.0	2.0	..	..	4.0	..	..	..	16.5	34.5
Lincoln Ind	10.0	3.0	..	..	4.0	..	..	..	16.5	33.5
Mt. Pleasant Ind.	11.0	5.5	..	9.5	4.0	..	..	..	16.5	46.5
Winterset Ind.	10.0	11.3	..	..	4.0	..	..	..	16.5	41.8
Big Springs Ind.	7.0	3.0	..	..	4.0	..	.5	.5	16.5	31.5



TOWN, TOWNSHIP OR DISTRICT	Teachers. .....	Contingent .....	School House .	School Bond ..	District Road .	General Twp. .	Cemetery .....	Bd. of Health	City Levies .....	Consolidated ..	Total .....
Hope, Ind. ....	5.7	3.3	...	....	4.0	..	.5	.5	.5	16.5	30.5
Platteville Ind. ....	8.0	3.5	...	....	4.0	..	.5	.5	.5	16.5	33.0
Platte River Ind. ....	5.5	1.7	...	5.0	4.0	..	.5	.5	.5	16.5	33.7
Works Ind. ....	3.1	2.3	...	....	4.0	..	.5	.5	.5	16.5	26.9
Science Ridge Ind.....	6.0	2.5	...	....	3.25	.5	.25	1.4	16.5	30.4	
Liberty Ind. ....	7.0	2.0	...	....	3.25	.5	.25	1.4	16.5	30.9	
Forest Grove Ind. ....	7.0	2.4	...	....	3.25	.5	.25	1.4	16.5	31.3	
Pleasant Grove Ind.....	3.0	....	...	....	3.25	.5	.25	1.4	16.5	24.9	
Ross No. 1 ....	7.0	1.7	...	....	3.5	.5	....	...	16.5	29 2	
Ross No. 2 ....	7.7	5.4	...	....	3.5	.5	....	...	16.5	33.6	
Ross No. 3 ....	13.2	9.6	....	..	3.5	.5	....	...	16.5	43.3	
Ross No. 4 ....	9.5	1.6	....	..	3.5	.5	....	...	16.5	31.6	
Ross No. 5.....	8.0	2.4	....	..	3.5	.5	....	...	16.5	30.9	
Ross No. 6 ....	12.0	2.8	....	..	3.5	.5	....	...	16.5	35.3	
Ross No. 7 ....	8.0	4.0	....	..	3.5	.5	....	...	16.5	32.5	
Ross No. 8 ....	6.0	4.0	....	..	3.5	.5	....	...	16.5	30.5	
Ross No. 9 ....	4.4	1.5	....	..	3.5	.5	....	...	16.5	26.4	
Athelstan Corp ....	16.4	5.7	....	..	....	..	....	...	15.0	16.5	53.6
Iona Ind. ....	16.4	5.7	....	..	4.0	..	.5	.5	....	16.5	43.1
Bedford Corp ....	17.3	6.0	....	5.	....	..	....	...	23.0	16.5	67.8
Bedford Township ....	17.3	6.0	....	.5	4.0	..	....	...	....	16.5	48.8
Blockton Corp.....	27.9	6.2	....	..	....	..	....	1.0	10.0	16.5	61.6
Blockton Corp Lands ....	27.9	6.2	....	..	....	..	....	1.0	5.0	16.5	56.6
Blockton Ind. ....	27.9	6.2	....	..	4.0	..	.5	.5	....	16.5	55.6
Clearfield Corp.....	18.0	7.0	10.0	..	....	..	....	.1	14.0	16.5	65.6
Clearfield Ind. ....	18.0	7.0	10.0	..	4.0	..	....	.2	....	16.5	55.7
Conway Corp.....	15.3	4.4	....	..	....	..	....	...	13.0	16.5	49.2
Conway Ind. ....	15.3	4.4	....	..	4.0	..	....	.2	....	16.5	40.4
Gravity Corp.....	15.4	7.3	....	..	....	..	.5	.1	13.0	16.5	52.8
Gravity Ind. ....	15.4	7.3	....	..	4.0	..	.5	...	....	16.5	43.7
Lenox Corp.....	16.4	2.4	7.1	..	....	..	....	.1	15.0	16.5	57.5
Lenox Ind. ....	16.4	2.4	7.1	..	4.0	..	1.0	...	....	16.5	47.4
New Market Corp.....	17.3	5.2	....	..	....	..	....	3.6	10.0	16.5	52.6
New Mkt. Ind. Dallas Tp.	17.3	5.2	....	..	4.0	..	.7	.1	....	16.5	43.8
New Mkt. Ind. Mason Tp.	17.3	5.2	....	..	3.75	..	.25	.2	....	16.5	43.2
Hawleyville Ind. ....	15.0	3.0	....	..	4.0	..	.7	.1	....	16.5	39.3
Sharpsburg Corp.....	12.7	1.6	....	..	....	..	....	...	5.0	16.5	35.8
Sharpsburg Ind. ....	12.7	1.6	....	..	4.0	..	....	.2	....	16.5	35.0

Poll, 50; Male Dog \$1.00; Spayed Female Dog \$1.00; Female Dog \$3.00.

## COUNTY ELECTIONS.

In writing this chapter it should be stated at the outset that the returns prior to 1866 are not complete, in fact, the names of county officers are for the most part to be obtained only from names affixed to legal documents. In the year 1866, a record book was provided for election returns, and the entries properly made from that time until the present. The very first record bears the date of August 18, 1852, and is signed by H. P. Bennett, county judge of Mills county, William Shearer, county judge of Page county, and John Lowe, county judge of Taylor county. The occasion of the record was the certificate of election and the canvass of votes for "senator and representative of Fremont district." The election was held on the first Monday in August, 1852, and there were cast a total of five hundred and seventeen votes. Of this number George W. Lucas received three hundred and twenty-four, and Benjamin Rector, one hundred and ninety-three. These gentlemen were contestants in the senatorial race, which from the record resulted in favor of Mr. Lucas. For the office of representative there were cast four hundred and ninety-six votes, and of these William C. Means received two hundred and thirty-eight, Fred Rector seventy votes and R. Connor, one hundred and ninety-nine. William C. Means was therefore declared duly elected representative.

In the same year occurred the presidential election, which caused such excitement throughout the union. Events were already casting their shadows before. Citizens of Taylor county entered into the contest with great enthusiasm as this was the first time the county was to assist in the election of a president. The first thing done was to divide the county into election districts. Four districts were formed, the fourth and last one including the present entire county of Ringgold, over which at that time Taylor county kept watch and ward. This necessary preliminary was attended to in October, prior to the election in November. Citizens of the first precinct were to vote at the house of Jacob Ross, and Judge Lowe appointed as election judges, Jacob Ross, James D. Ross and John F. Dougherty. The voters of the second precinct were to assemble at the residence of Benjamin Barnes and Young Faris. Benjamin Barnes and Elias Bridgewater were to see that the votes were properly cast and to care for the returns. The members of the third district were to vote at the schoolhouse, in what is now Jackson township and Matthew Hindman, Isaac Gyll and William Edmiston were appointed as judges. The judges were to make a return of the vote of their respective districts within three days after the casting thereof. Judge Lowe did not forget the infant county of Ringgold. On October 16, 1852, he ordered that Ringgold county "is lade off in one entire disstrict and named Scholan Township," and the place of voting to be at "Lott Hobbs." The judges of the election were Charles H. Scholen, Abner Smith and Jesse Harper. All of these preliminaries being arranged matters were in readiness for the presidential election. On November 2, 1852, the election was held and the total number of votes cast in the four precincts was fifty-two.

In this campaign it will be remembered that Franklin Pierce, the democratic nominee, defeated General Winfield Scott, the Whig candidate.



In this county the democratic electors received double the vote of the Whig electors.

Previous to the November election, one had been held in August, 1852, for county officers. No returns are to be obtained of this election. In the county courts' minute book, however, is found the oaths of office of the following persons, stating that they had been elected at the election. John Lowe, county judge; Jacob Ross, county surveyor; William B. Carrigan, a constable of Benton township and William Hindman, district clerk for the term of two years.

In the April elections of 1853, held to elect a district judge and township officers the following incomplete returns are found:

Whole number of votes cast ..... 54

FOR DISTRICT JUDGE.

Allen A. Bradford ..... 26

William Dewey ..... 28

*Jackson Township.*

James Gartside, justice of the peace; E. Hake, assessor; Hampton Pennington, constable.

*Polk Township.*

Daniel McAlpin, justice of the peace; John Krout, assessor; James Holland, constable.

*Benton Township.*

No justice. Lot Hobbs, assessor; Allen Bullock, constable.

In 1854 occurred the second election for representatives held in this county, which then formed a part of the thirty-ninth district. The returns are certified to by Thomas Greenwood, county judge of Fremont county, John Lowe, county judge of Taylor county, and Elisha Milton, district clerk of Page county, and ex-officio county judge. The whole number of votes cast was six hundred and five, of which William Day received three hundred and three, and Tilden S. Buckham three hundred and two, electing Day by one vote, but the record shows no contest of election.

The complete returns for Taylor county alone were as follows:

*Governor*—Curtis Bates, 66; James W. Grimes, 11.

*Secretary of State*—G. W. McLay, 71; Martin Morris, 70.

*Member of Congress*—Augustus Hall, 69; Rufus Clark, 6.

*Representative*—William Day, 65; T. S. Buckham, 14.

*District Clerk, Taylor County*—H. W. Baker, 33.

*Prosecuting Attorney*—William Ferguson, 23.

The record closes by saying: "Baker and Ferguson is elected."

From this incomplete record of the election of 1854, there are no records preserved relative to elections until 1866, and after an interval of fifty years, the old settlers still alive can recall but few of the names of county officers of that time. While there may have been carelessness in preserving the records, at that time, we feel sure that the political business of the county was carried on as actively and earnestly as at present.

From pioneers we learn that the people of Taylor county entered into the presidential contest of 1856, with zeal. The newly formed republican party put forth its first candidate, John C. Fremont, who entered the contest on the plat-

form of "Free speech, free press, free soil and Fremont." This year, 1856, marks the first organization of a republican party in this county, further mention of which will be made elsewhere. It is especially unfortunate that the records of three presidential elections, are preserved only in the memory of the old settlers. It would be of special interest to read the returns of the elections of 1856, 1860 and 1864. With 1866 the record opens, and everything connected with local politics will be again brought to mind by studying the list of candidates and the votes cast for them. As there is not much local interest now in candidates for the various state offices so many years ago, we refrain from giving a list of them, and will only give the various county officers, district judges, state representatives, senators and congressmen for the district of which Taylor county forms a part. It will be noted that for a time we had, in addition to the district judge which we still have, a circuit judge whose jurisdiction was confined to certain classes of cases, but the office was finally abolished and an additional district judge is now elected. A district prosecuting attorney, who acted as attorney for the state in all cases throughout the judicial district. As population increased and with it a corresponding increase of legal business, this office was abolished and each county now elects a prosecuting attorney. Changes have been made from time to time in congressional, senatorial and representative districts.

Our present congressional district, the eighth, comprises the counties of Adams, Appanoose, Clark, Decatur, Fremont, Lucas, Page, Ringgold, Taylor, Union and Wayne, eleven counties. Our judicial district is the third and comprises the counties of Adams, Clark, Decatur, Ringgold, Taylor, Union and Wayne.

Our senatorial district is the sixth and includes Taylor and Adams counties, Taylor county is the eighth representative district. Where it has been possible to obtain a list of officers from other sources back of 1866, we give them, as will be noted in list of judges and congressmen.

*District Judges*—Allen A. Bradford, 1854; E. H. Sears, 1855-57; John S. Townsend, 1857; E. H. Sears, 1858-62; James G. Day, 1863-70; James W. McDill, 1870-72; J. R. Reed, 1872-73; Samuel Forrey, 1873-78; R. C. Henry, 1879-90; John W. Harvey, 1883-90; W. H. Tedford, 1891-1900; H. M. Towner, 1891-1908; R. L. Parrish, 1901-03; W. E. Miller, 1904-05; H. K. Evans, 1905-08.

*Circuit Judges*—James W. McDill, 1869-73; J. W. Hewitt, 1873-78; D. D. Gregory, 1878-84; John Chanay, 1884-86. Office abolished.

*Congressman*—Bernhart Henn, 1853-1855; Augustus Hall, 1855-1857; Samuel R. Curtis, 1857-1863; John A. Kasson, 1863-1867; Greenville M. Dodge, 1867-1869; Frank W. Palmer, 1869-1873; James W. McDill, 1873-1877; W. F. Sapp, 1877-1881; W. P. Hepburn, 1881-1886; Albert R. Anderson, 1887-1888; James P. Flick, 1889-1892; W. P. Hepburn, 1893-1908; W. D. Jamieson, 1908.

*State Senators*—N. B. Moon, 1868-1872; Huston January, 1872-1876; Fred Leale, 1876-1880; G. L. Finn, 1880-1884; A. P. Stephens, 1884-1888; George L. Finn, 1888-1896; W. C. Mitchell, 1896-1900; F. L. Arthaud, 1900-1904; Dan W. Turner, 1904-1908; T. W. Bennett, 1908.

*State Representatives*—L. T. McCoun, 1867-1871; Andrew Johnston, 1871-1873; John Flick, 1873-1875; John Madden, 1875-1877; J. P. Flick, 1877-1879; N. S. Honady, 1879-1881; Lyman Evans, 1881-1883; Dennis Hamblin, 1883-1885; George L. Finn, 1885-1887; C. M. Paschal, 1887-1891; A. J. Sowers, 1891-



1895; George H. Van Houten, 1895-1899; W. D. Blakemore, 1899-1903; William Cobb, 1903-1906; George H. Van Houten, 1906-1908; M. L. Burt, 1908.

*Clerk of the Courts*—E. T. Smith, 1867-1871; Alexander John, 1871-1873; Eleazer Fleming, 1873-1875; H. H. Taylor, 1875-1879; S. Schram, 1879-1881; H. H. Taylor, 1881-1883; T. H. Hull, 1883-1889; Samuel McKissick, 1889-1893; H. P. Jaqua, 1893-1897; Paul Hunter, 1897-1901; Edward E. Cass, 1901-1905; T. G. Stewart, 1905-1909; Ren H. Fuller, 1909.

*County Recorder*—1867-1869; James P. Flick, 1869-1871; E. G. Medford, 1871-1881; William Wilkins, 1881-1885; W. N. Farlow, 1885-1889; W. F. Johnson, 1889-1893; John W. Beck, 1893-1897; N. Reeves, 1897-1901; M. A. Sawyer, 1901-1905; Kenneth E. Stephens, 1905-1909; Mary E. Osborne, 1909.

*County Auditor*—Previous to 1869, duties of this office were performed by county judge.

R. B. Kindell, 1870-1874; W. F. Evans, 1874-1880; H. P. Long, 1880-1886; E. R. Fowler, 1886-1890; M. Miller, 1890-1895; J. W. Beauchamp, 1895-1899; M. M. Million, 1899-1903; J. F. Besco, 1903-1907; W. H. Lake, 1907.

*County Treasurer*—E. Rose, 1868-1869; J. M. Cobb to fill vacancy and for full term, 1869-1872; M. V. King, 1872-1874; Alexander John, 1874-1876; Peter C. King, 1878-1884; George H. Van Houten, appointed by board of supervisors to fill vacancy until election of 1884; Alexander John, 1885-1886; W. F. Evans, 1886-1890; A. C. Brice, 1890-1892; 1892-1896; Charles G. Martin, 1896-1900; A. E. Lake, 1900-1904; W. F. Evans, 1904-1909; A. D. Nye, 1909.

*Sheriff*—M. V. King, 1868-1869; Jesse Laird, 1869-1874; filled vacancy in 1869; later regularly elected to the office; J. I. Algeo, 1874-1876; J. F. Scott, 1876-1880; G. E. DeLong, 1880-1882; T. H. Morgan, 1882-1888; W. E. Brown, 1888-1890; G. M. Bradley, 1890-1892; R. Vickery, 1892-1896; H. M. Long, 1896-1900; W. C. McGinness, 1900-1904; J. H. Humphrey, 1904-1909; J. H. Dougherty, 1909.

*County Superintendent of Schools*—From Mr. J. S. Boyd, we gather information regarding the superintendent's office from the organization of the county. John Hayden was commissioner of schools in 1857. He was followed by E. D. Bulen who was elected in 1858, followed by J. S. Boyd, in 1861. Mr. Boyd served in the office until 1864, when he was succeeded by W. B. Snow in 1864. From Mr. Snow's election we take the record. J. B. Snow, 1864-1870; J. S. Boyd, 1870-1872; D. L. Chaney, 1872-1874; John B. Owens, 1874-1880; W. P. Jeffrey, 1880-1884; W. P. Bishop, 1884-1888; J. M. Dick, 1888-1890; Irene McCloud, 1890-1892; Fannie Rutledge, 1892-1896; F. E. Crosson, 1896-1902; H. S. Ash, 1902-1907; E. E. Kuhn, 1907.

*Coroner*—W. S. Hamilton, 1868-1870; M. C. Connett, 1870-1874; W. F. Randolph, 1874-1876; A. M. Golliday, 1876-1878; M. C. Connett, 1878-1882; S. S. Weidner, 1882-1886; L. U. Singer, 1886-1888; J. T. McColm, 1888-1892; T. W. Bennet, 1892-1898; C. W. McColm, 1898-1900; Milo B. Dunning, 1900-1904; E. L. Brown, 1904-1906; C. M. Paschal, 1906.

*Surveyor*—As will be seen in the article on location of the county seat in 1853, Jacob Ross was the first county surveyor. We find no mention further until the year 1867. The election returns give the name of D. W. Lamb, county surveyor. D. W. Lamb, 1868-1870; Josiah Litteer, 1870-1874; N. P. Nelson,



1874-1886; W. C. Blackstone, 1876-1880; M. C. Litteer, 1880-1882; W. F. Randolph, 1882-1904; E. S. Chesbro, 1904-1909; J. C. Askom, 1909.

*County Attorneys*—Mark Atkinson 1887-1891; L. T. McCoun, 1891-1895; W. M. Jackson, 1895-1899; W. E. Miller, 1899-1903; J. B. Dunn, 1903-1907; M. R. Brant, 1907-1909; T. M. Dougherty, 1909.

*Prosecuting Attorneys*—James A. Forger, 1855; J. W. Alley, 1856; James A. Forger, 1857; James G. Day, 1858-1862; R. B. Parrott, 1862-1865.

*District Attorneys*—In 1865, the name of the public prosecutor was changed to district attorney and he travelled over the district as the judges do now. The following attorneys filled the office until it was abolished in 1886: C. E. Miller, 1866-1869; M. S. McPherson, 1870-1873; W. L. Laughlin, 1873; M. S. McPherson, 1874-1881; James P. Flick, 1882-1886. Office abolished.

In the foregoing pages are given the names of the various county officers, and date of election as shown by the election record, which it has been mentioned, dates back as far only as 1866.

About the only way earlier officers are known are from finding their names affixed to official instruments in the various old records. It has been a laborious process and very unsatisfactory. The record here given is not complete, as to the names, and the dates of election and time of service can only be guessed at.

In another chapter it will be noted that the first election was held in 1851 and the various officers elected are mentioned, but the time for which they were elected is not given. It states that Jacob Ross, Levi Hayden and Daniel Smith were elected county commissioners, John Hayden, county clerk, treasurer and recorder, and James B. Campbell, sheriff.

The commissioners held court at the home of Jacob Ross, who is denominated Judge Ross in the record, although county judge is not mentioned in the account of the election.

In a record, date of 1852, we find Judge Lowe's name affixed, so the inference is that Jacob Ross was temporarily county judge and that John Lowe was the first judge after county organization.

Following John Lowe was W. C. Gibson and probably the last one was Jesse Evans, as we find various records signed by him from 1856 to 1859. W. F. Walker was a county judge or rather probate judge after Evans, as the duties of the office had been restricted to purely probate business.

Under date of 1858, we find reference to newly elected county officers, as follows:

District clerk, D. Dale; treasurer and recorder, Bona Dale; prosecuting attorney, J. A. Hewis; and sheriff, John A. Higgins.

Mention is made of the October election of 1858, in which it is stated that D. E. Jones was chosen treasurer and recorder, and E. D. Bulin, county superintendent.

In 1859, Elisha T. Smith was elected county clerk. In 1860, James S. Brooks was elected sheriff; J. M. Stockton, county superintendent and Josiah Litteer, surveyor. In another record found since writing the above, it is stated that in 1857 A. B. Walker resigned as treasurer and recorder and Bonaparte Dale was appointed to fill the vacancy and that John S. Boyd was surveyor in 1859.



It was a laborious process to get at the date of the election of members of the board of supervisors. After the abolishing of the office of county judge, a board of supervisors transacted the business formerly done by the judge. At first it seems that there was a supervisor from each township, and it is likely he was elected by the voters of the township, along with other township officers.

Under date of January 7, 1861, we find record of the swearing in of a board of supervisors, following is the list: Daniel Underwood, Benton; W. H. Allison, Clayton; Samuel Weaver, Dallas; L. W. Hillyer, Jefferson; B. B. Hoover, Jackson; William G. Meredith, Mason; Josiah Litteer, Marshall; Jesse Orme, Nodaway; J. B. Campbell, Polk; Oliver Jenks, Platte; Humphrey Parker, Ross; and D. W. Hamilton, Washington.

In 1862, Vincent Beall, of Clayton; Thomas Cobb, of Benton; Asa Cobb, of Ross and John King, of Jefferson, were sworn in as members of the board.

In January, 1863, John McLean, of Dallas; James Gartside, of Jackson and Josiah Litteer, of Marshall, were sworn in as members of the Board.

In 1864, W. H. Allison, J. R. Standley, B. T. Warfield, R. D. McKee and B. H. Baker.

In 1865, Daniel Hoover, Daniel Leonard, R. D. McAlpin and Jesse Laswell, are recorded as members of the board.

In 1866, M. B. Godfrey, David Johnson, James Miller and Jacob Tomlinson were sworn in as members.

In 1867, Joseph W. Turner, J. M. Stockton, S. W. Robinson, W. J. Woods and A. Chenoweth became members of the board.

In 1868, David Johnson is the only new name we find added to the board of supervisors.

Nothing could be found which disclosed members elected in 1869.

About this time the law affecting the membership of the board changed as in the county election returns for 1870 we find the first record of the election of a supervisor.

At this time three members were elected at the general election. Since then to the present time the board has consisted of three members. The men who had the honor to be chosen at this election were: B. B. Hoover, L. W. Hillyer and G. E. DeLong. The members elected at each succeeding annual election were as follows: 1871, D. W. Hamblin and A. B. Oxley; 1872, B. B. Hoover; 1873, R. D. McKee; 1874, D. H. Hamilton, to fill vacancy and D. W. Hamblin; 1875, W. D. Blakemore; 1876, John Reeves; 1877, W. P. Sherwood; 1878, J. H. Osborne; 1879, W. B. Snow; 1880, W. H. Colgrove; 1881, W. D. Blakemore, 1882, R. V. Kelley; 1883, W. H. Colgrove; 1884, W. E. Crum; 1885 Washington Hall; 1886, John L. Payton; 1887, J. West James; 1888, Washington Hall; 1889, J. R. Cooper; 1890, J. M. Thompson; 1891, Henry Coulthard; 1892, John R. Cooper; 1894, H. Coulthard; 1895, S. F. Bowen; 1896, A. B. Wakeman; 1897, H. H. Johnson; 1898, Joseph Doubet; 1899, A. B. Wakeman; 1900, H. H. Johnson; 1901, J. E. Babson; 1902, Alex. John; 1903, C. A. Huss and Lloyd Payton to fill vacancy occasioned by death of Colonel Babson; 1904, Lloyd Payton. The elections after this were held bi-annually. 1906, Paul Hunter, two years; C. N. Hargardin, three years; W. G. Sharp, three years; 1908, Paul Hunter and C. N. Hargardin.

## COUNTY SCHOOLS.

Reports of schools being given, with the history of each town and township, this chapter will be little more than a condensed report. From the financial report of the county found in another chapter, it will be seen that the tax levies for school purposes are quite liberal, having been materially increased in the last few years. There is a healthy growing educational sentiment in the county, which will eventually lead to still better conditions. Many districts have nine months school, pay good wages, have neat buildings and keep them in good repair, and appropriating more money each year for library books and apparatus, and otherwise showing that the school is the most important thing in the community. A regular course of study is pursued by the rural schools, the completion of which entitles the pupil to a diploma which admits him to any high school in the county without examination. For more than ten years the county has had uniformity of text-books and the books are furnished to pupils at the contract price. A summer school is now maintained in connection with the annual teachers institute and this furnishes an opportunity for the teachers to get professional training at home. A teachers' reading circle is also maintained which calls for some study during the year along professional lines, which has a tendency to raise the standard of efficiency in the teaching force.

The following figures are from the county superintendent's annual report for 1908:

Number of teachers in the county, males .....	38
Number of teachers in the county, females .....	321
Number of persons of school age, from 5 to 21, males.....	2519
Number of persons of school age, from 5 to 21, females.....	2533
Total number enrolled .....	4445
Total average daily attendance .....	3121
Average cost of tuition per month for each pupil.....	\$2.29
Number of schoolhouses .....	130
Value of schoolhouses .....	\$155400
Value of apparatus .....	5905
Number of volumes in libraries .....	5301
Teachers' fund, amount received from all sources.....	\$87695.80
Teachers' fund, disbursements, (paid teachers).....	59979.37
Schoolhouse fund, received from all sources.....	23146.56
Paid for buildings .....	13680.53
Contingent fund, all sources .....	28047.06
Contingent fund, paid for all purposes .....	16306.38
Total number certificates granted, males.....	29
Total number certificates granted, females .....	141
Average age of those to whom certificates were granted.....	19
Number of teachers holding state certificates or diplomas....	17
Number of teachers' places in the county .....	175
Number of school townships, 12 districts.....	96
Independent city, town and village corporations, 11 rooms....	55
Rural independent corporations, 26 districts .....	78



Reports of the various town schools will be given in connection with the history of each corporation.

#### RAILROADS, TELEGRAPH, TELEPHONE, ETC.

Taylor county has three lines of railroad, which gives exceptional shipping facilities. The Creston Branch of the Burlington System traverses the county from north to southwest, and the Keokuk and Western, until recently called the Humeston and Shenandoah, enters the county near the south line of Dallas township, angles slightly to the northeast and leaves the county near the north line of Grant township. They cross two and a half miles north of Conway. Since the Burlington acquired possession of the Keokuk & Western, efforts have been made to secure a station at the crossing. At last these efforts have been rewarded in a slight degree at least, as trains on both roads now stop for passengers.

The Chicago Great Western crosses the southeast corner of the township. It has less than eight miles of road in the county. The thrifty town of Blockton, formerly old Mormontown, has grown into one of the best towns in the county since the advent of the road. At the point this road passes out of the county into Missouri is the town of Athelstan. The depot is in Missouri, but the town is on the Iowa side. These two points give excellent shipping facilities to the citizens of the southeast portion of the county, who formerly were compelled to ship everything from Bedford, a long hard trip for them in bad weather.

The Creston Branch has twenty-eight and eight one-thousandths miles of track in the county, with an actual value of twenty thousand, four hundred dollars per mile. The Keokuk and Western has twenty-seven miles of track with an actual value of fourteen thousand, four hundred dollars per mile.

The Chicago Great Western has five thousand, seven hundred and ninety-two miles of track with the actual value of twenty-four thousand, six hundred and eight dollars per mile. The total assessment on railroads in the county is two hundred and seventy-five thousand, six hundred and seventy-two dollars.

The Adams express company uses the Burlington roads and the Wells, Fargo & Company express, uses the Chicago Great Western, for the handling of express business. The total assessment on express companies is two thousand one hundred and thirty-one dollars.

The number of miles of telegraph corresponds to the number of miles of railroad. There are six hundred and two miles of telegraph and telephone lines in the county, assessed at twenty-one thousand, two hundred and forty-nine dollars.

There is scarcely a farmer but has a telephone. Convenient distance to the railroad, a telephone in the house, and mail delivered at the door every day, are luxuries undreamed of by the citizens of this county less than fifty years ago. A few men have lived to see all of this development. Daniel Leonard, in building his cabin broke his ax. Bedford was the nearest point where he could purchase a new one. If a physician was needed it frequently meant a long trip in the night, where now the phone is called into use, and time and travel saved.

Such men as J. S. Boyd, A. J. Litteer, Daniel Leonard, S. S. Patch and William Hindman, can appreciate these modern conveniences, much more than can the later generation, who rave if the phone gets out of order or the weather prevents the delivery of the mail.

## LEGAL HISTORY.

### COUNTY, DISTRICT AND CIRCUIT COURTS.

The first county court convened at the home of Jacob Ross, February 16, 1851. The officers composing the court have been mentioned under the head of county organization. This court was composed of the three county commissioners and they were elected or chosen by the citizens of the county, for the purpose of carrying out the organization of the county. The first election held after the organizations of the county, was in August, 1851, and then the other officers necessary to carry on county business were elected. Aside from the business pertaining to the public affairs of the county, this court had jurisdiction over certain other causes. Among them attachments, executions, and even sometimes heard preliminary actions in criminal causes and bound the defendant over to the succeeding term of the district court. This power, however, seems to have been taken away from them after the county election of 1852, when a county judge was elected, who was empowered to decide questions of law. After this date the county commissioners attended to about the same work now delegated to the board of supervisors.

The first case tried before the county court, of which we can obtain record, was on a writ of attachment, which follows together with the second and third cases.

WILLIAM WILSON,	} An attachment
vs.	
JOHN THOMPSON.	

And claims the failure on the part of John thompson for not promptly paying off A Note of hand, Made payable to Isaac Dowis, with Wm. Wilson and H. foster surety for some twenty-six dollars and some odd cents, and due on the 18. day of January, 1853, this day the plaintiff, John thompson, has approved and confessed Judge Ment, whereupon, John thompson pays all Cost, Expens in said sute gave under My hand this 24. day of January, 1853.

JOHN LOWE, C. J.

Now at this time heare Coms James H. Holland and Jacob Ross and acknowledges themselves Jointly indebted to the county of Taylor in the sum of ten dollars and eighty cents and the cost attached on certain stray horse colt taken up by William Roach on the 30 day of October, 1851—appraised to thirty dollars, and said stray alluded to was traded in a short time after he was taken up by Roach to one young faris, and by Faris to one James Holland and Holland traded sd. stray before alluded to, to one Jacob Ross. All the ill legal traffick done before the nine months had expired to, gave title to sd Horse, there up on



the county court of taylor county has directed that the forfeiture of sd stray horse colt dos Es Cheate to the schole fund of sd. county.

JOHN LOWE,  
*County Judge.*

THE COUNTY OF TAYLOR, U. S. }  
AGAINST JOHN THOMPSON. }

The writ issued to William McEffee, sherif of Taylor Co. on the 10. day of January, 1853, and the said warrant Have Been levied on a certane Bay Mare, witch was Taken up by John thompson in october, 1851, and said thompson appearing himself in person and acknowledg the demand and alledg in said writ is just, and thereupon complys with the requir Ments of the law. thearupon it is ordered by the court that the said bay Be released by thompson paying to the court the sum of the princeple, \$12.25; and fifty cents for the writ, 50c; and \$1.00; clerk's fes; and fifty cents for recording Judge Ments, 50c; Sherif's fees for having the writ 50c; Mileage, 4 miles, 5 cents per mile, going and returning 40c; for advertisements 20c; for Keeping the Mare, \$1.50.

The entire proceeds of the above named Stray Taken up by John thompson, after deducting the expenses will neate the school funds—\$10.75.

JOHN LOWE,  
*County Judge for Taylor County, Iowa.*

Judge John Lowe was a native of Kentucky, and what education he had, was received in that state. He is reported to have been an honest, warm hearted man of good sense, and enjoyed the confidence of the early settlers to the fullest extent, and was considered by most of them as almost the only man in the county qualified to transact public business, this accounts for his election to the then important office of county judge, and for his long tenure of office. We give verbatim copies of his records, not to hold him-or the other fathers of the county up to ridicule, but that subsequent generations may see the nature of the business that came before our early county officers. At present, our officers have printed forms for everything that might arise, and the only thing to do is to fill in names and dates. Our early officers lacked experience in clerical work and familiarity with the law, and from the records given it will be seen that they were obliged to arrange the form as best they could, and while their work may have lacked scholarly finish, we have never heard a breath of scandal regarding their work for the public. The records demonstrate that their education was very limited, at least in some directions that now might be deemed important, but they also evidenced a desire to faithfully discharge the duties of the office. It will be noticed that nearly all of Judge Lowe's public documents closed with the phrase: "gave from under my hand this       day of       " etc. The judge resided about three and one-half miles west of Bedford, on what is now the A. N. Dougherty farm. His house was built of logs and at the time was the finest house in the county. When the first assessment roll was made out his property was assessed at forty-eight dollars and paid a tax of twenty-nine cents.

The first business relative to the disposition of the property of deceased persons was transacted by Judge Lowe during the first month of his first term

of office. Joshua Hudson an early settler in this county has died intestate. It became necessary of course, to provide administrators of the estate, which Judge Lowe proceeded to do by appointing the wife of the deceased as administratrix. The documents in this matter are the following:

## LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION.

STATE OF IOWA, }  
TAYLOR COUNTY. } ss:

*To all persons to whom these presents shall come, greeting:* Know ye that whereas Joshua Hudson, late of the county of Taylor, died intestate, having at the time of his death property in this state which may be lost, destroyed or diminished in value if speedy care be not taken of it; to the end there of that said property may be collected, preserved and disposed of according to law, I do hereby appoint Mary Hudson administratrix of all and singular the goods and chattels, rights and credits which were of said Joshua Hudson at the time of his death, with full power and authority to secure and dispose of said property according to law and collect all money due said deceased; and in general to do and perform all other acts and things which are or hereafter may be required by law. In testimony whereof, I, John Lowe, Judge of the Probate Court and for the County of Taylor, have hereunto signed my name and affixed the seal of said County at my office, this 13. day of August, A. D., 1852.

JOHN LOWE, *Judge.*

Filed 14. day of August, 1852, for record. A true copy.

JOHN HAYDEN, *Clerk.*

The record further shows that the property of the deceased was appraised by John W. Duncan, Cornelius N. Sweet and James Ano on September 4, and 6. On the last named date the property was sold, realizing in notes, mortgages and money, six hundred and eighty-seven dollars and forty cents. On the 29th day of September, the bill of sale of the estate, with all the items, parties to whom sold and amounts paid, was recorded and filed away with other papers of like import. This business transaction was followed on October 27, 1852, with one of like import, relative to the estate of Russell L. Thompson, deceased, and another of the early settlers of the county. The administrator was Thomas Holland. The amount realized was sixty-two dollars and seventeen cents. The other business transacted by the county judge seems to have had reference particularly to public matters, such as ordering roads, building bridges and like improvements. The legal history of the county properly begins with the institution of the district court, the first term of which was held September 15, 1851, at the house of Jacob Ross, Judge James Sloan presiding. John Hayden was clerk and James B. Campbell, sheriff; there were three attorneys present: George P. Styles, A. C. Ford, and Jacob Dawson. The last named was appointed prosecuting attorney for the term.

The grand jury held its deliberations in a grove near the dwelling of Judge Ross and the petit jury in the same grove, a short distance from the other jury. Following are given the names of persons from whom the members of the grand jury were selected as well as the actual members of the first petit jury.



*First Grand Jurors*:—Benjamin Barner, James D. Ross, William B. Cariger, James Holland, Elisha Parker, Henry Fields, Thomas Holland, William Roach, William Lewis, Matthew Smith, Russel L. Thompson, Joseph Roach, Matthew Hindman, Henry Smith, Eden Hawk, Isaac Guyll, James H. Burge, Elias Bridgewater, Nathaniel Towner, John R. Foster, John Dqugherty and William Edmonson.

*First Petit Jurors*:—William Wilson, George Dial, William Pointer, James Gartside, James Ross, William Hindman, Frederick Gammel, Alexander Duncan, Benjamin Tanner, David Nisely, Francis H. Farley and Henry Foster.

There is a tradition handed down, that at this session of the court, a jug of liquor was on the ground for the benefit of any who might desire that kind of refreshment.

The grand jury found two indictments, one each against Isaac Dowis and S. E. Godsey, for assault and battery upon one John Hayden, who was at the time county clerk.

The case was tried, and resulted in the acquittal of Dowis and Godsey, leaving Hayden to pay the costs. We are informed, however, by William Hindman, that Hayden never paid the costs. Records at that time were kept on loose sheets of paper and when Hayden was called on to pay, the papers in the case could not be found, and as people generally considered the verdict unjust nothing further was done in the matter.

James Sloan, the judge who presided at this session of court, was quite a character in a way. On the records of the district court of Fremont county for the June term, 1850, appear the following entries:

James Sloan produces in court his declaration of his intention to become a citizen of the United States of America, and also produced satisfactory evidence to the court that said James Sloan has resided in the United States for more than five years, and within the State of Iowa, for more than one year last past, and it further appearing to the satisfaction of the court that during that time, he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

Thereupon the said James Sloan came into open court, and was duly sworn to support the constitution of the United States, and he doth absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, whatsoever, and particularly Queen Victoria, present queen of Great Britain and Ireland, whereof he was before a subject.

Now at this time, comes James Sloan and produces in court a license from the supreme court of the state of Iowa, to practice as an attorney and counsellor at law.

Whereupon the said James Sloan came into open court, and was duly sworn to support the constitution of the state of Iowa, and that he would faithfully demean himself as an attorney and counselor at law to the best of his ability. In the following year, 1851, Sloan was elected to the office of judge of the district court, a position for which he was, in many respects, totally unfitted. His first term of court was held at Sidney, Fremont county in May, 1851. From that county he held court in Page, and then to this county in the fall of the



same year. It is related of the judge, that, at a session of his court held at Cornville, near Glenwood, Mills county, just at the close of his session here a very modest member of the bar politely attempted to enlighten his understanding upon some statutory provision by opening the code and offering to read therefrom, when, to his mortification, he was met by the stern rebuke of his honor—"Sit down, sir! down! to h—l with your Cud! the court has the law in his head!"

The second time that the judge went to Cornville to hold court, he was unable to proceed on account of the animosity being generated between the mass of the people and the Mormon population of that section, to which latter the judge belonged. He resigned in 1852, and removed to Salt Lake, from which period he was lost sight of by the people of this district. In the meantime there had been admitted to the bar, lawyers well known to the old settlers of this county. A. C. Ford has already been spoken of. The resignation of Judge Sloan left the judgeship of the district court open to the ambition of younger lawyers.

It is said that the resignation of Judge Sloan was brought about by interested parties who were striving for public notice. One of the attorneys before the bar of Fremont, A. C. Ford, was to receive the resignation of Judge Sloan, secure the backing of his Whig friends, and Sloan was to present the claims of Ford to the governor of the state. Sloan had in some way become related in business matters to a certain Orson Hyde, a "latter day Saint," and afterward the great Mormon Apostle, Hyde was editing a paper known as the *Fremont Guardian*. In consideration of any service Hyde might render him, Ford was to purchase the press of Hyde, and in connection with Dawson, should use it as a campaign organ in support of Ford as a candidate for the district judgeship at the next election. The scheme to elect Ford failed for the lack of the recommendation he thought he could get. It appears that he was a fugitive from justice from California, which fact became quite generally known among the citizens of Fremont county. The oppositions took on a stronger aspect than mere refusal to recommend his appointment—a meeting was called at Sidney, in February, 1852, at which were passed a series of resolutions denouncing Hyde, and decidedly uncomplimentary to Ford. Copies of the resolutions were sent over the district and to the governor of the state. Accompanying the resolutions sent the governor, was a recommendation to the governor to appoint Allen A. Bradford as Judge Sloan's successor. Their petition was heard and granted. Bradford received the appointment and entered upon the duties of his office. Before the expiration of his first term his official acts met with such general approval and his integrity of character was so well known, that there was scarcely any opposition to his election the next term. Evidently Judge Bradford was a very worthy man, and merited the confidence reposed in him by the legal fraternity and court officials generally. He was a native of Maine and retained many of the peculiarities of his native state. In court he was stately and dignified, permitted no violence of court decorum, was prompt in his decisions, and taken altogether, was a worthy occupant of the bench of the district court.

Judge Bradford did not complete the term for which he was elected. In some difficulty with a man near Nebraska City, he received a severe wound on the head by a club in the hands of the man, which necessitated his resignation of



the judgeship. The difficulty seems to have arisen, over the boundary lines of the respective claims of Judge Bradford and his assailant. It was during the judicial career of Judge Bradford that the first rules adopted by any district court in Fremont county were spread upon the proceedings and made a part of its record. They comprise eleven distinct specifications, and cover nearly all the ordinary business of a session of court. With the November term of 1854 the connection of Judge Bradford with the judicial history of the county ceases. The successor to Judge Bradford was the Honorable E. H. Sears, a native of New York, locating in Fremont county in 1853. His first court in this district was opened the 19th day of February, 1855. His first term occurred at a time well calculated to the test his judicial powers and his legal ability. New laws—for the most part obnoxious in themselves to many—had been enacted, and the first causes in the county under these enactments were tried before him. They were causes relating to the sale of intoxicating liquors, in their very natures requiring the greatest judicial care and more than ordinary legal ability in the court before which they were tried.

Judge Sears gave such general satisfaction and proved so admirably his fitness for the judgeship, that to his election the second time, no obstacle presented, although he belonged to the minority political party. He was a careful man and a wise judge taking the greatest pains to insure justice to all parties to a suit—civil or criminal. As evidence of this carefulness, and the measures he adopted to insure no errors on the part of the jurors, we reproduce the following charge to the grand jury, delivered in 1859—fifty years ago:

*"Gentlemen:—*Before entering upon the important duties which you are called upon to discharge, it may be well for you to make and answer the following inquiries: What are the uses of a grand jury? Why was it instituted? And did the people demand it? The people of England, our ancestors, did demand it, and thought they had made a great advance in personal security and individual liberty, when they had obtained it from the reluctant and unwilling hands of despotism. Prior to its institution the courts were looked upon by the mass of the people as engines of cruelty, injustice, and oppression, and not as the protectors of innocence and punishers of crime. Who does not remember the history of the bloody assizes and the judicial act of a Jeffreys? And it was to prevent fraud, oppression, favoritism, bribery and all manner of corruption in the administration of criminal jurisprudence, that the grand jury was instituted. And how can you assist by your action as grand jurors, in the accomplishment of this great object? It can only be accomplished by laying aside every personal or party consideration; by rising above hatred or affection, and by knowing no person, friend or foe, in the discharge of your duties. To vindicate the law and mete out justice, should be your only motive. No one can be arraigned before this court for a crime but on your presentment. You are responsible to your country and to your God for the wrongful arraignment of the innocent, and for the non-arraignment of the guilty.

*"Courts and juries should never permit mere technicalities, evasions or subterfuges to prevent the truth or thwart the administration of justice. The temple of justice is no place for evasion or falsehood. And this remark applies alike to the bar, the jury and the court. The court imbued with the spirit of*



equity, should hold with even hand the scales of justice. The jury, rising above every personal consideration and disregarding every subterfuge and evasion, should find the simple truth. And the member of the bar who feels the responsibility and real dignity of his position will have a stronger regard for the faithful administration of the law than successful evasion; and more pleasure in the triumph of truth and right than in falsehood and injustice. He will feel that his duty to himself as a man, to his country as a citizen, to his God and his own conscience as a responsible being, are infinitely higher in their nature than the duty he owes his client. And when all of us feel our responsibility and act up to the high duties which it imposes may we not hope that our courts (if it be true that they have lost it), will regain the public respect, and enjoy the public confidence; and that men will not feel called upon on account of any imagined inefficiency or uncertainty of the courts, to take what they deem justice into their own hands, and administer it summarily and in violation of all law. But are our courts wholly to blame for this loss of confidence and growing disrespect for their decisions? Has not the citizen a sacred duty to perform in relation to the courts and in maintaining their character and authority?

“A decision of a court having authority to make the same is as much the law of the land as a statute can be; and until the same is reversed in a legal way and constitutional manner, should be respected and obeyed. He who creates a disrespect for the courts of our country is doing an irreparable injury by shaking the confidence of the people in the faithful administration of justice. While the courts themselves should not only be pure, but should be above suspicion, and should avoid the least shadow of party or personal bias. They should also be respected and sustained by that confidence which, alone, can enable them to successfully perform the important function for which they were instituted, to mete out justice between man and man, protect the innocent, and punish the guilty. But your special attention is called to your duty in regard to all county officers. Gentlemen, let your inquiry into your county affairs and the manner in which your officers have performed their duties, be strict, thorough and uncompromising, hold them to a strict account of their stewardship and this court will give you all the assistance in its power to enable you faithfully to perform this, as well as every other part of your duty. Pursue these investigations, gentlemen, with diligence, not urged thereto by a spirit of persecution or party prejudice, or personal ill-will, and not deterred therefrom by favor, fear or personal friendship. Give to all complaints against your public agents a patient hearing; and let all come here with these complaints, if any they have, or hereafter hold their peace, and now, gentlemen, remember that the position you occupy is one of vast importance to your county, and to the entire state. Interests as dear as life, as personal liberty, and on the right of property, depend upon your action. It is for you to say whether the law shall be maintained and enforced and its violators receive the reward they merit; whether human life and the person of the citizen shall be safe under its protecting care; whether the rights of property shall be inviolate and the sovereignty of the law maintained and order secured within your county; or whether the law shall be trampled upon with impunity, every principle of justice and good order outraged, and the violator, with un-



blushing front and in open defiance of all law, go unwhipped of justice. And, gentlemen, is the oath you have taken a mere form, a judicial farce, a solemn mockery before high heaven, or is it binding upon your conscience, imposing the highest obligation under which the human being can act in the discharge of important duties, to himself, to his country and to his God. Acting, then, in view of these high and solemn responsibilities, enforced by an oath administered by the authority of law, in the temple of justice, to the searcher of all hearts. I cannot doubt but that you will so act as to redeem this, your solemn pledge, maintain the dignity of the law, secure its supremacy, and give a sense of security to the citizen in all his rights of person and property within your county."

Judge Sears always appeared to be dignified and equal to any emergency that might arise. He felt that the suffrage of his constituency called him to execute justice upon the guilty, and to protect the rights and liberty of others. The following incident may serve to illustrate this feature of his character, and the fidelity he exercised as a judge.

Hon. L. Lingenfelter, a prominent attorney and politician of Fremont county, is authority for it, and it is given in his reminiscences of the early court of the district: "I recollect of a very exciting time in his court in this county in 1859. In 1857 the new constitution of Iowa provided that a negro might testify the same and another person in all courts of judicature, federal or state. Under its provisions as the statute made thereunder, it happened, at the September term of the district court for 1859, there were three free blacks; to-wit: Green Garner, Henry Garner and Thomas Reed, subpoenaed, and were in attendance to testify in a certain case against some parties who were wealthy, respectable and influential. When the case came on for trial the courthouse was crowded with men full of excitement, who were intent upon interruption should these witnesses be put upon the stand. Threats were audibly made against the lawyers, the parties interested, the witnesses, the officers of the court, and even against the court itself, should they attempt to testify. But Judge Sears quailed not, he was firm, fearless and unmoved. He called upon the sheriff to bid the spectators to be seated and be quiet, stating that they should have a good opportunity to hear all the evidence; that what was now transpiring was something new, to be sure, but it was now the law, and he hoped no man who loved the enforcement of the law would see it violated. This had a good effect. The witnesses were sworn, testified, and subjected to a cross examination, and then retired without molestation, and no one either injured or insulted."

The successor to Judge Sears was James G. Day. He graduated from the law school of Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1857, and came to western Iowa in the same year. He served as judge of the district court with distinguished ability for two terms, and afterward became one of the judges of the supreme court of the state, in which capacity he served eighteen years. He was succeeded by Judge J. W. McDill.

The subsequent district and circuit judges of this district are named and their tenure of office given under the chapter on elections. Nearly all of them have been men worthy of the office and usually served as long as they wished. The bar here has numbered among its members several attorneys who have achieved success in their profession and have been honored in a political way. The Hon.



J. P. Flick, for two terms district attorney was afterward elected to the lower house of congress for two terms. In both offices he served his constituents with distinguished ability. He is still a member of the bar here and enjoys a large practice. Only a few months ago he was appointed postmaster here to succeed J. J. Clark. One of the oldest members of the bar here is the Hon. L. T. McCoun. He has long enjoyed a reputation of being the best criminal lawyer in southwest Iowa, and his record fully justifies this opinion. A history of the legal battles he has participated in would fill several volumes like this. Mr. McCoun has represented the county in the state legislature, and has also served as county attorney. Lyman Evans, a member of the bar here in the '70s and '80s was state representative thirty years ago. He removed to California several years ago, and has achieved success in his profession in that state. Hon. G. L. Finn, for many years a member of the Bedford bar, was a successful lawyer, and served his county in the state legislature, in both senate and lower house. He spends most of his time now in Oklahoma, but he has extensive interests here yet, being one of the largest landholders in the country. Charles Thomas, who but recently removed from the county to Oregon, practiced law here for many years. Mr. Thomas had a good practice and was highly esteemed. He was a candidate for county attorney two or three times but was defeated, owing to the fact that he was a democrat and had a big majority to overcome and was always unfortunate enough to be pitted against a strong candidate on the other ticket.

Mark Atkinson had a good practice and was the first county attorney. He removed to Oklahoma a few years ago, where he had poor health, which gradually enfeebled his mind until he was taken to a hospital for the insane for treatment. It is authoritatively reported here that he is hopelessly insane and his general health failing rapidly. W. E. Miller, and W. M. Jackson, for a long time partners in a law office here, enjoyed an extensive practice. Both were county attorneys and W. E. Miller was appointed district judge by Governor Cummins, to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge Tedford. Mr. Miller has removed to Des Moines where he is established with a leading law firm.

J. B. Dun, four terms county attorney, was located in Lenox until his election. He has since left the county. Attorney Johnson, for years the legal luminary of Lenox, enjoyed a good practice, but he has sought fresh fields. Lenox is now served by attorney J. R. Locke who has been a member of the bar here but a short time. W. E. Crum is one of the veterans of the Bedford bar. He is associated now with W. E. Crum, Jr., and H. P. Jaqua. Bruce Flick, associated with his father, J. P. Flick, is a young attorney of great promise. He has shown great ability in several important cases, and his friends predict that he will build up a reputation equal to that of his distinguished father. Frank Wisdom, for a few years Blockton's attorney, is now a resident of Bedford and a member of the bar here.

M. R. Brant began his legal career here and served a term as county attorney. R. T. Burrell, removed here from Gravity and is associated with L. T. McCoun. W. W. Palmer, for several years a teacher in the schools of Gravity and Conway, was admitted to the bar here and practiced in the courts here for a short time. He afterward removed to Dakota to engage in the practice of law,



but has since been in the employ of the government in that state in some department of the Federal land office. E. A. Pace, for several years has practiced in the courts here. He is a resident of New Market. T. M. Dougherty, the present county attorney, is also a resident of New Market, where he has conducted a law office in connection with a banking business. J. R. Plummer for several years has practiced in Clearfield.

Attorneys of this court who will be remembered by the older citizens were Seymour Hall, who practiced here more than forty years ago; Vinton G. Holliday; Joseph A. Hughes, at one time probate judge before that office was abolished; N. B. Moore, who afterward removed to Clarinda; Colonel George W. Friedley, who practiced here until the breaking out of the war in 1861. Hans Grimes and Pat O. Day, two young men when they came here thirty-six years ago. Both went from here to Nebraska, where they built up a successful practice and were honored politically. Grimes married Miss Mary McCracken, a Bedford girl, daughter of Thomas McCracken. James W. Whiffin, one of the attorneys of the early '70s, is now a resident of Kansas City, where he has accumulated quite a fortune. J. L. Brown, who practiced here twenty years ago, went to Oklahoma City, in the boom days, and is reported to have grown rich in the practice of his profession. Henry Mohler, son of L. Mohler, an early settler, practiced here for several years. He is now in Kansas City. Martin Lucy was here a short time. O. Fenno, whose name appears elsewhere as a county officer. Colonel John H. Jolly; Major Hedrick; B. V. Leonard; L. N. Lewis, father of Bedford's present mayor, F. N. Lewis; Robert Hays; L. J. Jones, was admitted to the bar here and practiced in the courts. He afterward removed to Kansas City where until about a year ago he was employed by a loan company. He went from there to California, for his health, where he died recently.

G. B. Haddock and son should have been mentioned earlier as they are members of the bar here at the present time. The elder member of the firm has been a resident of Bedford many years and the firm has an extensive practice. J. B. Evans; Charles H. Finn, brother of Hon. G. L. Finn; James S. Jackson, now of Villisca; Levi Dunlavey, brother of Dr. Dunlavey here; W. M. Jackson; John Hale; L. G. Parker; Lunk K. Pratt, who removed to Kansas, where he became a district judge; Robert Elliott; and T. V. Shoup. There may be some names omitted but the list is as complete as could be made from the memory of our oldest settlers.

Much could be written of the legal battles that have occurred in the county between legal lights of the bar here, but the county has had but few criminal cases. Four or five trials for murder being all we had in more than half a century. The case of Knouse killing Griffith was mentioned in the chapter on Clayton township. The famous Brice case came up in 1865, just after the war. It appears from the evidence in the case that one James Mullen of Sidney, Fremont county, was about to start to Eddyville, Iowa, which was then the western terminus of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad. Two men, J. Brice and J. J. Crans secured passage with him. Brice and Crans were strangers in Sidney and claimed to be going farther east. The party started from Sidney the first or second of January, 1865. About April 1, 1865, the body of a man was found one and one-half miles north of where the postoffice Guss is now located.

S. S. Patch, now a resident of Bedford, lived in Nodaway township at that time, and reported the matter to the coroner. Papers on the person of the murdered man disclosed his identity, his relatives were soon located and search for the supposed murders, Brice and Crans began. In the latter part of April they were arrested in Lewiston, Illinois. They were brought back to Bedford for trial. From property found in their possession, which competent witnesses identified as Mullin's, and from the evidence of citizens of Sidney, besides the murdered man's relative, who positively identified them as the men who started with Mullen, and the evidence of William Glassgow, of Dallas township, with whom they stayed all night, and who identified the body as well as the murderers, the grand jury had no trouble in bringing in an indictment of murder, which they did at the September term of court, 1865.

The case came up for trial at the December term. Both men plead not guilty to the indictment and the case went to trial. Crans weakened and turned state's evidence. Brice was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to be hanged. Crans was sent to the penitentiary for seven years.

While Brice was held pending the execution of his sentence, there being no county jail he was guarded in the court room of the old courthouse and the sheriff took him to the hotel for meals. The hotel was about on the present site of the present hotel Garland and was run by C. M. Steele. One evening after the prisoner had been in to supper, his guard being a little careless, Brice sprung into a buggy standing in front of the hotel door and made his escape. He drove down the river and a short distance out of town he left the rig and took to the timber skirting the river. A posse, headed by the sheriff, pursued and located him. When discovered Brice jumped into the river. When Ezekiel Rose approached the bank, Brice, who had been supplied with a revolver, fired upon him, wounding him in the left breast. The sheriff then fired at him but Brice dived and was not hurt. When he came up he tried to shoot the sheriff but having a powder and ball revolver, in diving the powder became wet and his weapon failed to discharge, whereupon he promptly surrendered and was brought back to town. Shortly after, while under guard in the court room, the prisoner escaped, the guards claiming to be chloroformed. It was supposed the drug was smuggled in in a cake sent the prisoner by some sentimental lady. No one accepted the story, but Brice was gone, and his whereabouts were never discovered.

In 1879, a man named Kennedy was on a spree in the town of Lenox and George and William Hartzell who were peace officers arrested him. Kennedy resisted and was struck with a "billy" by William Hartzell and instantly killed. On the trial of William Hartzell, the jury brought in a verdict of murder in the first degree. He was given a penitentiary sentence of one year by the judge. The case was appealed and the supreme court reversed the decision and remanded the case for retrial. Before it came up for trial, however, the case was dismissed. George Hartzell was acquitted.

One of the most dastardly murders ever committed in the county occurred in 1887. Emmett Reed and a companion had been working on the Great Western railroad, then being built, and on November 2, 1887, started north together. Reed had a span of horses, a span of mules, a wagon and three sets of harness,



in fact owned the entire outfit. Foster simply traveling with him. They camped near Skinner's bridge, north of Blockton. Here Reed was murdered and his body and trunk sunk in the river. November 6th, Reed's trunk was discovered floating in the river and the parties, Richard Ballow being one of them, pulled it ashore and noticed that it had been weighted with the evident intention of sinking it. This aroused their suspicions and they investigated further and found Reed's body. Foster was traced with the teams through Bedford, on through Page county to Nebraska City, where he was captured and brought back to Bedford, where at the trial he was found guilty of murder in the first degree and sentenced to hang. The case was carried to the supreme court where the decision of the lower court was reversed and the case remanded for new trial. At the second trial the jury found the prisoner guilty of murder in the first degree with a recommendation to the court of imprisonment for life. He is now serving his sentence. Two years ago he tried to obtain a pardon but failed.

The evidence on which Foster was convicted was purely circumstantial, but it was strong, not a link in the chain being missing. The last and most recent criminal case in the county was that of I. M. Hendrickson of Blockton who shot John Woodside, inflicting wounds from which he died in a few hours. The difficulty between the two men grew out of domestic difficulties, which finally ended in a tragedy. Hendrickson was indicted at the December term of court, 1905, and was tried at the February term, 1906. From the evidence the jury considered the killing justifiable and brought in a verdict for acquittal.

### TOWNSHIPS AND TOWNS.

In the chapter entitled "Township Organization," a brief sketch is given of the township system, in which its origin is shown to have been in Massachusetts as far back as 1635. As there noted in several of the states, including New York and Michigan, the township system is quite independent in its organization and functions—as independent of the county as the county is of the state. They collect their own revenue; provide for their own schools; take care of their own indigent; make and keep in repair their own roads, bridges, etc. Where this system prevails it works well and is more in consonance with our general form of government. The closer civic affairs are brought to the people the more interest they take in them, the better they understand them, and the safer they are from the encroachments of the few, who too often seek, and do control them to their own advantage and not infrequently to the detriment of the people.

It will be observed that the growth of the various townships of the county since their organization, as shown in the chapter on "Township Organization," preceding, and of which this is really a continuation, has been rapid and prosperous. From the wild prairie of a few years ago, over which the deer, buffalo and Indian roamed, beautiful farms, with modern improvements have been made. Great fields of grain and domestic grasses, fine herds of horses, cattle, hogs and sheep greet the eye on every hand and bespeak the prosperity of the county.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP.

Jackson township, named for one of the popular presidents of our country, is in some respects the most noted township in the county. As stated elsewhere, up to 1851 it included all of Taylor county. The first settlement was in Jackson township.

The first settlers were Matthew Hindman and Isaac Gyll. Hindman located on section 8 and Gyll on section 14. They came in 1843, seven years before the present state line was surveyed, in 1844, when, so far as known, these two families were the only ones in the county. Jesse Gyll and Martha Hindman, were married at the home of Matthew Hindman, the bride's father. Later in this year, a son was born to James H. and Melissa Burge, and he was given the name of William Thomas Burge. There is some controversy as to this child being the first white child born in the county, some claiming that Henry Parker, son of Stephen Parker, should have that distinction. The writer has no means of knowing, except from the statement of early settlers themselves, and as to time, there could be but little difference in the ages of the two. Pasetta Gyll was the first girl baby to visit the township or the county. Alexander Gyll, was the first to die, his death occurring in 1844. These early settlers were sick at times and needed the attention of a physician, and the nearest one was Dr. Torrance of Maryville, Missouri, who ministered to the physical ailments of these people.

At Matthew Hindman's home was held the first religious services. Alexander Spencer, of the Methodist church was the preacher.

In 1845, the first schoolhouse was built on section 15. It was of logs, plastered with mud. It was built by the settlers themselves without public aid. The first school was taught this same year, 1845, by Smith Kauble. He had fifteen pupils and his compensation was two dollars and fifty cents for each pupil for three months. That is, he taught three months for thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents. Of course it is understood this money was raised by subscription. In fact for several years after, the only schools in the county were subscription schools.

The next schoolhouse was built near Daniel Hoover's. It was built in 1855 and was a more pretentious affair, costing two hundred and fifty dollars.

John C. Meehan, who till lives on his farm in Clayton township, was the second teacher to instruct the youth of Jackson township. William Hindman, who lives in West Bedford, was one of the early teachers of the township and he also has the distinction of being the first county clerk. The township is now divided into four school districts, with independent organization. The buildings are substantial, well located and well kept. Following is the last report taken from the superintendent's books :

FOREST GROVE.

Value of school building .....	\$500.00
Value of apparatus .....	55.00
Number of pupils enrolled .....	22
Average daily attendance .....	15
Number of volumes in library .....	56
Paid teachers since last report .....	\$280.00



## LIBERTY.

Value of school building .....	\$700.00
Value of apparatus .....	50.00
Number of pupils enrolled .....	20
Average daily attendance .....	13
Number of volumes in library .....	15
Paid teachers since last report.....	\$295.00

## PLEASANT GROVE.

Value of school building .....	\$1000.00
Value of apparatus .....	25.00
Number of pupils enrolled .....	27
Average daily attendance .....	21
Number volumes in library .....	79
Paid teachers since last report .....	\$ 190.00

## SCIENCE RIDGE.

Value of school building .....	\$1000.00
Value of apparatus .....	\$100.00
Number of pupils enrolled .....	36
Average daily attendance .....	25
Number of volumes in library .....	102
Paid teachers since last report.....	\$340.00

When the Hindmans and Guylls first came to the county their nearest neighbors were in Missouri, fifteen miles distant. One or two more families came in a few months later, so that they were not entirely isolated from civilized people. The necessities of life they did not raise or obtain from hunting and trapping were brought from St. Joseph, Missouri, seventy-five miles away, over pathless prairies and unbridged streams.

James Gartside located in Jackson township in 1850, and was prominent in county affairs until his death in 1877.

Isaac Dowis, for a time, lived in Jackson township, later removing to a farm, where he lived until his death, several years ago, a short distance south of the present state line. Mr. Dowis will be remembered as the defendant in the first criminal action brought in the county. The action was brought by John Hayden for assault. George Lorrison, who is still living, came to the township in 1857 and settled on the farm where he lived until his removal to Bedford, a few years ago.

John W. Wood settled on section 17 in 1855, and lived there nearly forty years, when he removed to Kansas. He paid a visit to Taylor county a few months ago, and is active as many men much younger. Mr. Wood was quite prominent in the county as a fine fruit grower and was active in horticultural matters, urging settlers to put out orchards. His activity is no doubt responsible in a large measure for the many fine orchards to be found over the county.

Daniel Hoover came to the township in 1834 and settled on section 9. He was a large land holder and prominent as stock raiser and in county affairs. For many years he has resided in California.

B. B. Hoover came to the county about the same time and settled on section 21, in Jackson township. He acquired several hundred acres of valuable land, and

was noted as a breeder of fine cattle and horses. He retired from the farm a few years ago, and spent a couple of years in California. He then returned to Bedford where he lived until his death which occurred in 1907. His widow and two daughters, Zelda and Ella, still reside in North Bedford.

Elisha Parker, uncle to Stephen Parker, an early settler of Clayton township, for a time resided in Jackson township, back in the '40s.

Along about war times and shortly after came a number of settlers, whose names have been associated with Jackson township ever since. Among these were the Kemerys, Straights. Harville Bailie, whose son, W. W. Bailie, is still a citizen of the township, was among this latter number. A little later came the Russells, William and George. The Hays family was among the earlier ones also. None of the earlier families are represented in the township yet except the Hoovers. Edgar Hoover, son of Daniel, still lives in the township, and Melissa, a daughter of B. B. Hoover, lives on her farm near the old homestead. The Kemerys, Straights, Hays and Russells are still numerously represented.

Jackson township is drained on the east border by Platte Branch and on the west by Honey Creek. The ridge between the two streams comprises some of the best farm land in the county.

W. W. Bailie, Jesse Grace, E. McCormick, E. S. Rowe, the Straight brothers, and the Snyders, are large landholders in the township at the present time.

For many years the township had no church building, religious services being held at the various schoolhouses.

At one time the Methodists had quite a strong organization at the Straight schoolhouse, which is now known as Liberty, but growing towns nearby have drawn off the membership until there are but few who are not identified with some church outside the township. The Baptists, however, have maintained an organization and a few years ago built a church at Forest Grove, where they have regular services every two weeks, have Sunday-school and carry on all of the regular departments of church work.

Jackson is now one of the smallest townships in area, notwithstanding that at one time it comprised the whole county, and although of limited area it ranks among the big ones in material wealth, the assessed valuation being six hundred and fifty-two thousand, five hundred and forty-four dollars.

The present township officers are: clerk, William Bailie; trustees, J. T. Weir, E. A. Kemery, John Stewart; assessor, J. W. Walker.

### BENTON TOWNSHIP.

Benton township was organized in February, 1851. Its history is so interwoven with that of Bedford, that it is difficult to give it separately. Among the first settlers of the township, are the following:

John Dougherty, who entered the land where his son, Jonathan Dougherty now lives, John Daily, Robert Dougherty, Hannibal Dougherty and Abner N. Dougherty, John and Amos Lowe, Thomas and John Cobb, Samuel P. Bristow, J. F. Johnson, W. A. Wysong, L. Wood, R. J. Salem, Charles Taylor and E. B. Lorrison. Mr. Wysong deserves especial mention as one of the stanch friends of the County Agricultural Society, for more than twenty years. James Ross



settled in the township more than fifty years ago, and acquired a large area of land. His son Lem, is still a resident of the township. The Cobbs, Doughertys and Rosses, all had large families, and many of their children and grandchildren are still citizens of the township and other sections of the county.

In 1879, O. M. Dunning, James Ross, J. H. Fitch and others, concluded that township organization separate from Bedford, would be desirable and succeeded in getting set apart, after presenting to the board, signed by a majority of the voters, praying that Bedford be stripped from Benton township. This the board did at the September session, 1880. The first township officers under this separate existence were:

Justices of the peace, A. J. McMurtry and B. J. Beal; trustees, Milton Dunning, John Hamilton and L. M. Dugan; clerk, B. J. Beal; assessor, Sidney Putnam; constables, Robert Salen and R. Hardenbrook.

O. M. Dunning, who came to the county in 1869, owned a section of land and was one of the progressive men of the county. L. W. Fairbanks, for many years a resident of the township, had nearly a section of land and for several years, was prominent in the affairs of the township and the county agricultural society. J. H. Fitch is still a resident of the township and may very properly be called an old settler, having a residence of over forty years. A. B. Wakeman, A. J. McMurtry and James McCracken, were many years ago large landholders, and accumulated much property in farming. Mr. Wakeman and his son, F. E., are at present residents of the township and are extensive farmers and stock raisers. Sen Campbell, Edward Thompson, Frank Titus and son Ellis, William Merkle, Sanford McCorkle, James Dougherty, a son of Gideon Dougherty, who settled in Page county about the time his brothers, Abner N. and John, settled here, O. M. Healey, Jason Putnam, Andrew Thompson, Isaac Bishop, Fred Patton, William Dowlin, William Fitch, Sam Harley, William Payton, Herriott brothers, are other citizens of the township at present and have found farming profitable.

The Methodists have long had an organization in the township and in 1879, built a place of worship near the northwest corner of the township and it is known as Gilead church. It has always enjoyed a large membership and a Sunday-school is maintained in connection.

Benton is one of the small townships, and with Bedford township cut off the southeast corner, it leaves a limited area. However, the valuation at last assessment was seven hundred and fifty-two thousand, nine hundred and seventy-six dollars.

Benton has but five school districts, with buildings valued at one thousand, three hundred dollars. Children of school age number one hundred and eighty-four with an enrollment of eighty. The teachers last year were paid one thousand, three hundred and thirty dollars; number of books in libraries two hundred and sixty.

The present township officers are: clerk, Frank Herriott; trustees, W. E. Fitch, J. N. Weatherly and I. L. Bishop; assessor, J. M. Fairbanks.

#### POLK TOWNSHIP.

This was one of the first townships to be organized as may be seen in the chapter on township organization, being a township as early as 1851, though much larger than now. It gets its name from President James K. Polk, one of



the democratic party's presidents. Polk township at that time being strongly democratic as it has been most of the time since. The town of Buchanan still a trading point for the people of the township goes further by its name to illustrate the political tendencies of the pioneers. In the elections of 1876 and 1877, the township was carried by the Greenbackers and according to the authority of George H. Powers, at one time editor of the Bedford Argus, Polk and Mason townships were the only townships in the United States giving Peter Cooper, greenback candidate for president in 1876, a majority vote. Like Mason township, Polk is crossed almost centrally from north to south by the West One Hundred and Two river, the largest stream in the county with the exception of East Nodaway, which crosses Nodaway township and the northwest corner of Dallas.

The river is bordered with excellent timber, the valley is wide and very productive, except for an occasional year, when crops are destroyed by an overflow.

This is one of the earliest settled townships of the county. The first actual settler is said to be a Mr. Thompson, who came in 1844, but died soon after locating.

Following him, came Elias Bridgewater in 1852, who settled on section 6, where he lived until his death occurred a few years ago. In 1877, Mr. Bridgewater lost his aged wife, who in a condition of mental aberration induced by sickness, drowned herself in a well on the premises.

William Ferguson and Peter Chrisman moved into the township from Andrew county, Missouri, in 1852, Ferguson settling on section 5 and Chrisman on section 7. In 1853, Russell Barnes and James B. Campbell moved into the township from Buchanan county, Missouri.

Lynord Reagor, Thomas Dakin, Joseph Snodgross and Thomas Wade, were other arrivals in 1853, Reagor from Missouri and the others from Indiana. Barnes settled on section 18, Campbell on section 8, Reagor on section 17, Dakin and Snodgross on section 7, and Wade on section 25. James B. Campbell was the first sheriff of the county and is frequently mentioned elsewhere in this work. In 1854, Joseph Smith came to the township from Platte county, Missouri, and located on section 9, where he remained until his death. Edward Smith for many years proprietor of the general merchandise store in Buchanan, is one of his sons. In 1855, or 1856, Jacob Taylor, Cyrus Wolverton, William Hatfield, William Bradbury, Daniel Thompson, Milton Blake and Benjamin Ball, came to the township, and a little later came J. Ward, J. and S. Taylor, E. Cook, D. Clayton, James and Jesse Harris, Martin McKee, Washington and Harrison Clayton. In 1858, Charles Drescher settled on the farm he resided on until he retired from farming and came to Bedford a few years ago, where he still lives in the enjoyment of good health for a man of his age. In 1860, his daughter Louisa was born and she now resides near her birth-place, and is the wife of Frank M. Hamilton, son of Captain D. H. Hamilton, who settled in Ross township in 1870.

Mr. Drescher is authority for the statement that the first marriage occurring in the township was that of T. Cole and Harriet Hobert, which was solemnized in 1859 or 1860. As far as can be remembered by old settlers of the township, the first boy baby born was Daniel Harris, son of James and Harriet Harris.



As nearly as can be ascertained, the first death in the township was in the family of Joseph Smith. His daughter died and soon after, his wife Jane, followed.

The town of Buchanan, known to the postoffice department as Siam, was located some time in the early 50's, and as it never got a railroad, it did not grow to the size anticipated by its founders, but notwithstanding this, it for many years was a good trading point and was a great convenience to the settlers of the township, and also many living in Page county, and over the line in Missouri. A postoffice was located there in a very early day, and remained until the rural delivery system was employed by the government.

A. Dakin, was the first to keep a stock of goods in the town we are informed, and he was followed by Al. Dyke, who conducted a general store for many years and amassed considerable money. He afterward removed to Shenandoah, where he was killed by a horse several years ago. George Russell succeeded Dyke in the mercantile business in Buchanan, and he was followed by Edward Smith, who was in business there until a few years ago a fire destroyed the business portion of the town. He was out of business for awhile, but for some time now he has been in business at the same old stand. Doc Hawkins started a second store a few years ago, but soon sold out to William Scrivner, who after conducting it for a time, sold to Ora Scrivner, who was in business when a second fire wiped out the business of the town again. Joseph Bowles was a Buchanan merchant for awhile, Aaron Beck is at present conducting one of the stores, having gone there in 1908, from Ladoga. A blacksmith shop has long been one of the institutions of the place that has been a great convenience to surrounding farmers.

Dr. Luther Bent of Bedford, was the first physician to minister to the ills of the citizens of Polk and Buchanan. Since then, several doctors have been located there. Dr. Stone who afterward moved to California, was the first resident physician. Dr. Will came later and is said to have been a practitioner of skill and ability. Dr. Snow, was for years a resident of Siam and had an extensive practice. Dr. Milo Dunning followed him and remained until last year, when he concluded to locate in Bedford.

The first schoolhouse in the township was built in Buchanan, in 1858. It had originally been built for a residence by a Mr. Lambert, but was purchased by public spirited citizens and donated for school purposes. As population increased and the demands for more school room became urgent, a larger and better appointed building was built, which in turn gave place to a modern two-room frame building. Two teachers are now regularly employed and the schools are graded as well as circumstances will permit. The district is independent and embraces as much territory as two of the ordinary school districts.

Buchanan has long had two civic societies, the Masonic and Odd Fellows. Both are in thrifty condition.

As nearly as can be ascertained, the first religious services held in the township, were at Warmesley's Grove on section 6, about the year 1854. The preacher was likely the Rev. J. M. Stockton, an old citizen of the county, who is frequently mentioned elsewhere in this work.

In 1859, the Methodists of the township attended services in Ross township, at the cabin of D. Martin, which was located on section 11, with Rev. Peterson as minister. Later the Methodists held services at the fine schoolhouse southwest of Siam, where Rev. Hildebrand preached. Services were held here until the erection of a building in Buchanan, where they have regular services, a Sunday-school and all other regular departments of church work.

Members of the Disciples church organized in the township as early as 1860, and have been a strong church since that time. They have a good church building in Buchanan and have regular services. Elder W. L. Dunlavey is serving as pastor for the second time and he has a large congregation. A good working Bible school, Endeavor society and other various societies.

For many years, Sunday-school was held at the High Prairie schoolhouse, and C. F. Drescher labored with them as superintendent.

There is a difference of opinion among the old settlers of the township as to who taught the first school. A Mr. Buchanan is given by some people as the first teacher, others are equally sure the honor belongs to Sarah McFarland. George Hatfield taught as early as 1859, the others in 1856 and 1857. This was all before schools were properly organized and the teachers were paid by subscription.

Mrs. Thompson, widow of the township's first settler, is accorded the honor of weaving the first cloth. Later, the honor was divided among Mrs. Reagor, Mrs. Ferguson and Mrs. Dyke. This may seem a trivial matter to some of our readers who have been born long since the pioneer days and not deserving of mention, but when it is known that "store clothes" and "store goods" were unknown to the pioneers, the work of those estimable women, who so courageously aided their husbands in building homes in a frontier state, deserves more than passing mention.

In the times of which we write, the nearest postoffice to the settlers of Polk township, was at Maryville, Missouri; so it will be seen that letters were but rarely exchanged with friends left behind. In 1856, the nearest railroad to Taylor county had not yet crossed the Mississippi river. In 1852, the nearest railroad point was Peru, Illinois, which was at that time the terminus of what is now the Great Rock Island System. Whenever a letter or a newspaper came, it had likely been weeks and often months enroute, owing to the slowness of the carriers of mail at that time. Heavy stages, lumbering coaches, worn out ponies and carriers, had to answer the purpose then, and if they seem as lifeless relics of a dead past, it is because we are now accustomed to the regular mail train that rushes through our state at sixty miles an hour, discharging and taking on mail at the various stations without slacking speed.

Then it took months and the encountering of much danger and many hardships, to go from Iowa to the Pacific coast. Now the trip is made in less than three days, and the traveller enjoys all the comforts of home enroute.

At the time of the first settlement of Polk township, the nearest mill was Russell's, down the Nodaway, twenty-five miles and it was only a "corn cracker." But in 1856, a Mr. Stone erected a "corn cracker" on the West One Hundred and Two, east and a little north of Buchanan.



Such game as deer, wild turkey, prairie chicken and pheasants, were abundant in Polk township in the early day and furnished the settler much of his living. Hunting and fishing was the popular pastime, especially on Sunday, according to the old settlers reports. They would turn out in the morning to hear Rev. Stockton, who drove in with his ox team. After services, they devoted the remainder of the day as above stated.

Shooting matches for turkeys, or a beef, were common and at one of these, as long ago as 1858, Abner Majors, son of one of the commissioners, who located in the county seat, was so injured by the explosion of a gun that the amputation of his left hand was necessary. Mr. Majors afterward moved to Page county, where he lived for a number of years, then he located in Bedford, where he resided until his death which occurred about six years ago.

Since writing the above, we have been told that Mr. Majors was injured while assisting in serenading a newly married couple. Both reports are from old settlers, but one must be wrong.

Peter Fine came to the township in 1857 and settled on section 19. John M. Fine come in 1867 also, as did Jesse Lasurel. Abijah Wilder came in 1852 and settled on section 29.

Some of the present well known citizens of the township now are: Alfred Bordner, Sid Bradley, the Clayton brothers, William Damewood, J. D. Duncan, William and James Melvin, William Eggers, the Fines, H. S. Goodrich, Frank M. Hamilton, W. D. McMaster, Marr Brothers, Isaac Hutchinson, Abraham Jeffers, Silas Landon, Manleys, the Scrivners, Edward Smith, the Stickleman, Silas Sheeley, Levi Taylor, William Ward.

On speaking of the church services and Sunday school formerly held at the High Prairie schoolhouse by the Methodist people, we should have added that several years ago the congregation built a neat chapel, which they named High Prairie church. Benjamin Remington, now a resident of Bedford, was among the active promoters of this enterprise.

Polk, being one of the small townships and also giving up enough territory to Buchanan for two districts, has only four school districts, with buildings valued at one thousand, six hundred dollars, and apparatus valued at sixty dollars, and one hundred and forty-five volumes in the school libraries. Last year they paid teachers one thousand, one hundred and seventy-one dollars and twenty-five cents.

They have one hundred and four pupils enrolled in the schools, with an average attendance of sixty-six.

The report of the Buchanan schools properly belongs with that of Polk township, so it is here given.

They have a two room building, valued at one thousand dollars, with apparatus valued at seventy-five dollars. They have seventy-five volumes in their library.

Eighty-nine pupils are enrolled in the schools with an average attendance of sixty-nine.

Last year they paid teachers seven hundred and ninety-five dollars. The assessed valuation of Buchanan district is two hundred and ninety-eight thousand, two hundred and twenty-four, and that of Polk township, six hundred and eighty-five thousand, eight hundred and sixteen dollars.

The present township officials are: Justices James E. Melvin and W. T. Allen; clerk, C. A. Clayton; trustees, A. D. Taylor, M. C. Owens and Silas Landon; assessor, J. H. Osborn.

### HOLT TOWNSHIP.

Levi and John Hayden are credited with being the first settlers of Holt township. They came in 1850. The next year they were joined in their new home by their widowed sisters, Mrs. Hudson and Mrs. Tabor. They were from Kentucky, and later removed from Taylor county to Kansas. C. N. Scott came in 1852, and settled on section 35, where he still lives. John Laird settled on section 32, in 1854; E. W. Meredith on section 27 in 1858; S. L. Meredith on section 33, 1856; R. H. Dunkin, in 1859; T. J. Davis section 28, in 1858; Thomas Laird, section 33, in 1854 and Daniel Leonard, section 10, 1854.

The first marriage in the township was that of John Anno and Mrs. M. Hudson

The first birth in the township was that of John Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Scott. This occurred in 1853.

A Mr. Hudson was the first settler of the township to die and he was buried on his farm.

Dr. Bent of Bedford and Dr. Grover of Hawleyville were physicians who ministered to the ailments of the early settlers. Later Dr. J. T. McCohm resided in the township where he practiced until the locating of Gravity to which point he moved where he practiced until his death, some years since.

Rev. Isaac Kelly, a pioneer Methodist minister of southwest Iowa, was the first to preach the gospel in the township. The first services were held at Hayden's grove, in 1856.

Rev. J. M. Smith of the Baptist church held a revival in the township in 1857, which resulted in an organization. Elder William Cobb was also among the early ministers to preach to the people of Holt.

The first schoolhouse was built on section 33, in 1855, and was donated by Mr. G. C. Abbitt and Mr. John Lewis. It was of logs, the seats were slabs, the floor "puncheon" and the chimney was made of sod.

The first school was taught by Mrs. Churchill, later a resident of Washington township.

These early settlers of Holt were happy and contented. They were carving out homes for their families in a section of the county, where the soil is rich, and the lay of the country such that the landscape presents a view that is inspiring. Small wonder that so many of the first settlers or their descendants still remain in the township. These people suffered inconveniences and endured hardships that would be the despair of the young people of the present day.

Imagine, for instance, Uncle Dan Leonard's sons, who reside in the township, confronted suddenly by the conditions their father had to face back in the "50s."

When Uncle Dan, late in the fall of 1854 before his house was completed, broke his ax, he was compelled to make a trip to Bedford, on foot to buy a new one before he could go on with his work.



The product of the farm, stock, etc., which the settler had to sell to supply him with clothing and other articles not produced at home, had to be marketed at Ottumwa or St. Joseph, Missouri.

The nearest mill was eighty miles distant, until the establishment of the little "corn cracker" at Hawleyville.

What is now Holt, Washington and Nodaway townships, were all in one voting precinct in the early days. It is said that the first election was held at the home of L. Rogers, and the ballot box was a teapot. There were fourteen votes cast and every one who desired it got an office, regardless of politics.

Holt is one of the townships that does not perpetuate the name of a president or other national character. It is said to have been named Holt in honor of its first clerk.

Early in the history of the township two postoffices were established. "Dan," so named for Uncle Dan Leonard flourished until 1878 when it was discontinued and Holt located on section 33, which was discontinued in the early "80s" after the building of the H. and S. railroad and the locating of the town of Gravity. Later there was a store and postoffice on section 21 and still later one on section 2, but the rural free delivery rendered them unnecessary and they have gone the way of their predecessors.

Holt is one of the finest agricultural townships in the county. Consequently it has some of the wealthiest farmers and stock raisers in the county. Daniel Leonard and sons have for some time been breeders of fine sheep on an extensive scale.

Henry Coulthard and sons, H. H. Johnson, the Cotters, Ed. Meredith, Frank Houchin, J. J. O'Connell and sons and many others are extensive raisers of fine horses and cattle.

Holt is divided into independent school districts, and has the full quota of nine districts. The citizens take pride in the schools, pay fair wages, keep their school property in good repair, and in consequence have excellent schools.

Following is the report of the schools, taken from the county superintendent's annual report.

ANTIOCH.

Value of school building .....	\$500.00
Value of apparatus .....	200
Number of pupils enrolled .....	24
Average daily attendance .....	21
Number of volumes in library .....	14
Paid teachers since last report .....	293.25

CHENOWETH GROVE.

Value of school building .....	\$450.00
Value of apparatus .....	20
Number of pupils enrolled .....	18
Average daily attendance .....	12
Paid teachers since last report .....	307.50

FAIRVIEW.

Value of school building .....	\$1500.00
Value of apparatus .....	25

Number of pupils enrolled .....	28
Average daily attendance .....	22
Number of volumes in library .....	50
Paid teachers since last report .....	318.90

## GRAVEL POINT.

Value of school building .....	\$400.00
Value of apparatus .....	10
Number of pupils enrolled .....	8
Average daily attendance .....	5
Number of volumes in library .....	10
Paid teachers since last report .....	233.50

## HOLT.

Value of school building .....	\$400.00
Value of apparatus .....	40
Number of pupils enrolled .....	26
Average daily attendance .....	18
Number of volumes in library .....	50
Paid teachers since last report .....	211.25

## HOLT CENTER.

Value of school building .....	\$400.00
Value of apparatus .....	10
Number of pupils enrolled .....	28
Average daily attendance .....	15
Number of volumes in library .....	10
Paid teachers since last report .....	330.00

## LINCOLN.

Value of school building .....	\$600.00
Value of apparatus .....	10
Number of pupils enrolled .....	29
Average daily attendance .....	18
Number of volumes in library .....	5
Paid teachers since last report .....	292.50

## MT. PLEASANT.

Value of school building .....	\$1200.00
Value of apparatus .....	200
Number of pupils enrolled .....	28
Average daily attendance .....	19
Number of volumes in library .....	4
Paid teachers since last report .....	210.00

## WINTERSETTE.

Value of school building .....	\$600.00
Value of apparatus .....	100
Number of pupils enrolled .....	23
Average daily attendance .....	13
Number of volumes in library .....	9
Paid teachers since last report .....	295.00



In wealth Holt is among the leaders, the assessed valuation being nine hundred and twenty-nine thousand, eight hundred and sixty-eight. The present township officials are: clerk, Louis Cotter; trustees, William Irwin, Guy Leonard and N. C. Scott; assessor, J. M. Green.

#### PLATTE TOWNSHIP.

Prior to 1866, Platte township embraced its present limits and all the territory now known as Grant township. The East One Hundred and Two river rises in Platte township, its source being several small streams, which furnish excellent drainage. Platte township is very high, and excepting Creston, Lenox, which occupies the northwest corner of the township is the highest point between the two great rivers. The soil here is very rich and productive and the surface is but slightly broken, so there is practically no waste land in the township. It is a land of beautiful farms and prices have long been the highest of any place in the county. Platte has long been the leading township in the production of corn and back in the days when farmers sold most of their crops, Lenox was the leading shipping point for grain in the county. Now most of the grain produced is fed to stock as it is in all parts of the county.

It is claimed that John Kilgore broke the first prairie in the township in 1855. This was on section 12. The same spring, William Coplinger and James McVey began the improvement of their farms, which were located on sections 11 and 24. The first house was built by John Kilgore in 1856. Coplinger built the same fall.

The first election was held at the home of William Coplinger in 1857. William Coplinger was elected justice of the peace, Oliver Jenks, township clerk and Oliver Jenks and S. W. Robinson, trustees. At this time every man in Platte township held an office with the possible exception of Mr. McDuffie.

The first postoffice in the township was established in 1857 and was located at the home of William Coplinger, and bore the very appropriate name of "Lone" because it was far away on the vast prairies.

The nearest mill to the settlers of Platte township, was in Madison county, or several miles southeast of Maryville, Missouri. The winter of 1855 and 1856 was unusually severe, and many hardships were experienced by these few hardy pioneers, but they survived them and lived to see the rapid development of the township, they had chosen for their home.

George Van Houten, now a resident of Lenox, came to the county in 1855, while a mere lad. Others were: N. Eggler, Henry Kilgore and J. M. Wilt.

The first marriage ceremony in the township was performed by Rev. James Wishard. The contracting parties being Abner Baggs and Miss Jane Geahan. The first boy baby born in the township was John McDuffie, whose happy parents were Greenbury and Martha McDuffie. This was in 1858. Belle Coplinger was the first girl baby. The first death occurred in the family of Dr. James McVey—a child, who was buried in Union county.

Dr. James McVey, who came to the township from Missouri, was the first physician to practice among the settlers of this part of the county. Rev. James Wishard, of the Methodist Episcopal church was the first to proclaim the gospel

in Platte township. Services were held in a log house on section 12, and there, no doubt was laid the foundation for morality that has always characterized the people of this township.

The first schoolhouse in the township was also built on section 12. The citizens built it of logs at a total cost of sixty dollars, and here Mr. Joe Lavelly, the first teacher, labored for twenty dollars per month. Mrs. James McVey is credited with weaving the first cloth. She is spoken of as a woman of great strength of character and well calculated to endure the hardships incident to pioneer life.

A few Indians remained when the township was first settled, but these soon disappeared as the number of settlers increased and the fur bearing animals, along the Platte were trapped by the whites and the revenue derived from the sale of pelts, was about the only money of the first settlers for the first few years.

All of the able bodied men of the township enlisted in the cause of their country at the breaking out of the war, and the hardships endured by the heroic women left behind, can hardly be understood by this later generation. Breadstuffs had to be brought from sixty to seventy-five miles by ox team, and the men left at home looked after this and to the hauling of wood for the families of men who were in the army.

In the year 1879, the Baptists of the township organized a church, known by the name of Bethel. The original members were: Mr. and Mrs. William Winkley, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Franklin, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Franklin, Mr. and Mrs. S. O. Chester, Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Waters, Mrs. Jennie Brown, Belle Franklin, Veachel Franklin, Marion Franklin and J. W. Franklin and their services were held in the schoolhouse in district No. 6. The church was reorganized in 1880, by a council composed of: Rev. P. Andrews and S. M. Osborne of Mt. Ayr; Rev. Golding of Bedford; Mr. R. M. Ray of Grant Center; Rev. H. S. Cloud and R. Bosists of Corning; and Rev. H. S. Cloud was chosen pastor.

The springing up of Clearfield, with the building of the Humeston and Shenandoah railroad, and its rapid growth into a town of seven or eight hundred, with all denominations represented by good churches, gave Platte township on the south, church facilities, while Lenox did the same for the north, hence the township organizations were gradually absorbed, unless the one at Bethel is still maintaining an organization.

Platte township has eight school districts with buildings valued at four thousand, two hundred dollars. Apparatus worth three hundred and forty dollars, with seventy-four volumes in the libraries. The schools have an enrollment of one hundred and sixty-four with an everage attendance of one hundred and four. The teachers in these schools were paid last year two thousand, one hundred and fifty-six dollars, and twenty-five cents. The assessed value of Platte township property is nine hundred and sixty-nine thousand, seven hundred and ninety-six dollars.

The present township officers are: Justices, J. J. Carey and G. L. Goodale; constables, William Mullen and M. A. Simmer; clerk, J. N. Hughes; trustees, C. W. Ely, E. N. Beadle and Truman Cottrell; assessor, Frank Connor.



## MASON TOWNSHIP.

This township being almost equally divided by the West One Hundred and Two river, which flows almost directly south through the middle of it, and which is or was well wooded, furnished an inviting retreat for game in the early days, and in consequence as a favorite hunting ground for the Indians. The rich prairie, abundance of water and close proximity to good timber, wooed the early settler also.

James Mason, "Uncle Jimmy," as he was familiarly called, chanced to come this way in 1847, and being delighted with the prospect settled on the farm which with additions, acquired from time to time, he owned and farmed until a few years ago, when he retired from active affairs and removed to New Market, where he died in 1908. He settled on section 15, and he has often told the writer that he had successively lived in three territories, two counties and three townships and had never moved from his original place of settlement. The township bears his name, which is a fitting tribute to his memory, as he was active in every movement for the promotion of the welfare of the township and was famous for his hospitality during his long and active life.

Other old settlers were Samuel Wineinger, Abram Hawkins, Kember McKee, W. B. Snow, John and Abram Holliday, Mr. Dyche, Wood Dougherty, James Ross and R. F. Pace. Still later settlers, who could now be called old settlers, were John Lindsay, Henry Raynor, James Miller, Samuel Gant, T. A. Meredith, W. B. Snow, Francis Llewellyn, Robert Timberlake, Joe Scott, William Meikle, William Aiton, Thomas Harkness, Washington Hall, Ed. Wolverton, Swan Sherbeck, Arthur Wainright, the O'Dells, Hutchinsons, B. F. Kelso, the Millers, W. E. Woodyard, the Cavenders, Burnhams and the Marrs.

Owing to the fact that the township is about equally divided into two parts by the West One Hundred and Two River, the township is naturally divided into six school districts. This works a hardship on some families, but no other plan of districting is practicable. Her six school buildings are valued at three thousand dollars; school apparatus at ninety dollars. They have one hundred and ten volumes in the school libraries. The schools have an enrollment of one hundred and ninety, with an average attendance of one hundred and eleven and they paid teachers one thousand, eight hundred and eleven dollars and seventy-five cents last year.

The last assessor's report gives for Mason township a valuation of nine hundred and fifty-two thousand, nine hundred and sixty-four dollars. At present Mason seems to be so law abiding she has no justice of the peace. Charles Skinner and J. E. Fuller are constables; A. T. Aiton, clerk; G. H. Mathes, W. A. Miller and Fred Miller, trustees; and J. O. Anderson, assessor.

From the assessed valuation it will be seen that Mason township ranks well in material wealth with any of the townships, although divided by the largest stream in the county. The two parallel ridges comprises the best farm land to be found in the county. The east ridge, familiarly known as "Scotch Ridge," has furnished homes for some of the largest landholders of the county. William Marr and brothers, William Meikle, William Aiton and Anderson brothers all have large well improved farms. Samuel Gant and sons, Samuel Weininger, the

Raynors, Burnhams, Hutchinsons and others have long kept the west ridge up to the highest standard in agriculture and stock raising.

### GRANT TOWNSHIP.

Probably no more beautiful section of country can be found in Iowa than that comprised in the townships of Gay, Grant, Platte and Grove. In traveling through them one sees a succession of rich, well-improved farms, and the topography is such that the view is enchanting. To look at these townships now one can believe that T. J. Potter, many years ago general manager of the Burlington railroad, spoke words of prophecy when he said, "The time is not far off when Iowa, with its rich soil, immense coal fields and thrifty character of its people, will be capable of sustaining parallel lines of railways, twelve or fifteen miles apart, across the state. People do not comprehend the possibilities of Iowa." Iowa has indeed come up to prediction above given as the awards on farm products, taken at great exhibitions, testify.

Grant township is crossed by one of the lines of road foretold by Mr. Potter. This line, formerly known as the Humeston and Shenandoah, now the Keokuk and Western, and part of the Burlington system, was built in 1881, and enters Grant township on section one and here one of the thriftiest and handsomest towns in the county was laid out, which will be spoken of more fully in another chapter.

The first settlers of Grant township were Oliver Jenks and Seth W. Robinson. Mr. Robinson was the father of Squire and Salem Robinson, for many years identified with the township.

Jenks and Robinson settled on section 2, in 1855 and in 1857 were the only families in the township.

Squire Robinson was the first one married in the township and Esquire David Johnson performed the ceremony. The first boy born was a son of Oliver Jenks. The first girl was Louisa C. Robinson, daughter of Squire and Mrs. Robinson. She was born in November, 1858, but lived but a short time, being the first in the township to die.

Some of the later settlers who may now be classed as old settlers, were George W. Dean, John Cooper, S. F. Bowen, the Greens, Haneys, and others, who have helped make the township what it is. The first schoolhouse erected in the township was called the Robinson, and a Mrs. Lucas was the first teacher.

At this schoolhouse the first religious services in the township were held, Rev. Faucett and Rev. T. C. Eaton being early preachers there. Rev. Faucett is credited with preaching the first sermon in the township.

The Methodists organized at Grant Center, in 1870, with George W. Dean, James Walker and wife, A. Smith and wife, Mary J. Benedict, Thomas Leonard, Sophia Knox and J. O. Eastman and wife, were charter members. They later erected a church building and for many years held regular services. Many of the members, however, have been absorbed by the church at Clearfield. Various pastors have been Rev. Nye, Rev. Avery, Rev. Potts, Rev. Dunbar, Rev. Hooton, Rev. Mitchell, Rev. Randolph, Rev. Welch and Rev. Plumb.

The Baptists had an organization at Grand Center as early as 1876, with the



following original members: J. H. Jones, Ellen Jones, Campbell Robinson and wife, Jarvis Lovett, Ada Dean and George W. Green and wife.

The early pastors were Rev. D. T. Smith, Rev. William Golding and Rev. I. M. Seay. The greater part of the membership united with the church at Clearfield.

The last assessment gives the valuation of Grant township property at nine hundred and ninety thousand, nine hundred and forty-eight dollars.

The township has eight subdistricts with buildings valued at three thousand, six hundred dollars. The number of schools is one hundred and twenty, with an enrollment in the schools of one hundred and fourteen.

Last year the teachers of the township were paid two thousand, two hundred and eighty-seven dollars. The number of books in school libraries is one hundred and twenty-three.

The present township officers are: justice, J. A. Wyant; constable, C. J. Harvey; clerk, C. C. Carlton; trustees, Joe Cooper, J. E. Cameron and John Knox, and assessor, J. E. Powell.

Some of the later settlers of the township were S. F. Bowen, a prominent citizen and large land holder; John Cooper, a large land holder and stock raiser, who is now in the banking business at Conway; the Bruners; George W. Dean; the Green brothers; Fred L. Rood, a breeder of fine hogs; the Duncans, who bred fine stock, both cattle and hogs; Joseph Doubet, a democrat so popular that he was elected a member of the board of supervisors in spite of a republican majority of several hundred in the county. The Haynies; Lock Campbell; Ab. Cooper; J. J. Knox; J. A. McKinstry; the Powells, Carl Wackernagel, and others we do not now recall.

In 1855, the flow of immigration to the county began. About this time, or possible a little earlier, W. H. Allison and J. Majors laid off some town lots in the southwest corner of what was later Marshall township, and called the to-be village, Lexington. For a time it presented strong opposition to Bedford, claiming the right to the county seat, because of closer proximity to the geographical center of the county. Considerable business was done at Lexington for several years, but as the settlements were principally south, Lexington gradually died out and the erection of the courthouse in Bedford in 1864 extinguished its last hope. The town site later became part of the farm of Rev. C. B. Pershim. The county poor farm was located near it.

The first Presbyterian church in Taylor county was organized at Lexington, June 27, 1857, Rev. L. G. Bell, a missionary of domestic missions, being the organizer. The society was placed under the care of the Council Bluffs Presbytery, and called the One Hundred and Two River church. The organization was merged into that of the Bedford Presbyterian church in September, 1860. The original members of the church at Lexington were James Mitchell, Mary J. Aikin, J. C. McCandless, Sinah McCandless, J. Gavin and Eliza Gavin. The Rev. Mr. Stryker was the first regular pastor.

Among the early settlers of Marshall township was P. H. Nelson who came in 1858. He was the father of N. P. Nelson, Conway's banker for many years, and now a resident of Los Angeles, California. Simeon Wright came in 1857. G. W. Wallace in 1856, William Schwemley in 1856, N. P. Nelson in 1858, Josiah Litteer, 1854.



Some of the present well-known citizens are: James E. Anderson, W. M. Bamson, William Cooper, J. H. Dolts, Ginn brothers, Dennis Hamblin, F. L. Hamblin, Jones brothers, E. Lewis, J. A. Lambly, F. J. Nendick, John Nugent, S. E. Robinson, William Rutledge, D. M. Woodfill, P. C. Miller, and many others.

This township has the advantage of two railroads, the Burlington, built in 1871, and the Humeston and Shenandoah, built in 1881.

It has two towns, Conway and Sharps. Conway, built with the advent of the Burlington and Sharps, on the north, after the building of the Humeston and Shenandoah.

Marshall township has always had good schools, and numbers among its early teachers such men as J. S. Boyd, who taught the first school, and was the second county superintendent, or really the first county superintendent and N. P. Nelson, who quit teaching to enter the banking business at Conway.

Following is the last report on the schools of the township: Number of sub-districts, seven, with buildings valued at two thousand, three hundred dollars. They have on hundred and sixty-nine children of school age, with an enrollment of one hundred and forty-five. They had eight months school last year and paid teachers two thousand, one hundred and four dollars. They have two hundred and fifty-nine volumes in the school libraries. The valuation of Marshall township property is seven hundred and thirty-three thousand, six hundred and fifty-six dollars. The present county officers of the township are: justice, J. L. Matthews; constable, N. L. Carmichael; clerk, F. C. Cooper; trustees, G. W. Hough, W. E. Weller and D. A. Brown; assessor, S. E. Robinson.

#### CLAYTON TOWNSHIP.

This township was settled almost as early as Jackson township. Stephen H. Parker, father of Marion and Stephen Parker, at present residents of Bedford and W. H., better known as Henry, for many years a business man of this city, settled in this township in 1845, and his son, W. H., was born October 27, 1846, and is claimed to be the first white male child born in the county. For several years Mr. Stephen H. Parker was the wealthiest man in the county. The first house with a shingle roof was built by him in 1852. He brought the shingles by wagon from St. Joe, Missouri. Mr. Parker also built the first barn in the county. The land where these buildings were erected, is about a quarter of a mile east of Honey creek, on the Platteville road and was later owned by B. F. Martin, and is owned at present by a Mr. Jarvis.

The place was styled "Fort Parker" and was a rendezvous for the settlers, when the Indians were reported to be on the war path. In pioneer times Mr. Parker's home was headquarters for everyone, in times of peace or danger. More than once did the settlers flock there and adopt plans of defense against the Indians. For seven years after Mr. Parker came to the county, not a single rod of land was surveyed, and to secure a little timber he was obliged to enter seven hundred acres. For his fireplace and chimney, Mr. Parker obtained brick three miles east of Maryville. For their flour they went to St. Joe. If a horse needed shoeing, Maryville was the nearest place he could get the work done. Between St. Joe and Mr. Parker's place there was not a single bridge. Often in crossing streams they were compelled to take their wagon in pieces and float them



over in what were called "dug outs," which were canoes hollowed out from logs. The first plows used were the traditional wooden mould boards with shares of metal.

Twelve families were living in the county at this time, according to Mr. Parker's report several years ago. Isaac Guyll, whom Mr. Parker accredits with being the first settler; Matthew Hindman, Mr. Foster, James Ross, Jacob W. Ross, Jacob Miller, Erice Summers, John and Gideon Dougherty, Amos Lowe and John Dailey. Amos Lowe lived west of Bedford on what is known as the A. N. Dougherty farm. Daily went to California, amassed considerable money, and while on his way home was robbed and murdered. John Dougherty married Mr. Dailey's widow. One of Mr. Parker's daughters married Captain Joe Park, who came to the county to start a woolen factory for eastern parties. The mill was never built but, instead of returning to Philadelphia the captain fell in love with Mr. Parker's daughter, married her and settled in Taylor county. He later went to Mexico where he was interested in mines. One of his sons, Samuel, remembered by many Bedford people is heavily interested in the lumber business in Texas and is reputed to be a millionaire. Mr. L. Mohler, of Bedford, was another old settler of Clayton township. He built the first schoolhouse there in 1856, near where Mr. C. C. Mohler, his son, now lives. In 1855 Mr. Mohler paid three dollars per bushel for corn. In 1856 the families living in Clayton township were: J. C. Meehan, L. Mohler, Frederick Cox, William Cox, Stephen H. Parker, John C. Ray, John Gruson, Woodford Dale and William Huddleston. Frederick Cox died in Taylor county and was buried in the Mohler cemetery. William Cox died in Missouri and was buried there.

In these days of which we write, Indians were quite numerous here. In 1850 they left the county, the government having provided reservations for them in Kansas, but they came back to hunt at intervals for many years and occupied their old camping grounds as of yore. A favorite rendezvous was on the One Hundred and Two river, south of the Mohler bridge. Quite a number always gathered where the Platteville road crosses Honey creek. Upon the East One Hundred and Two river, near Conway, was a favorite camping ground, as hunting was good there. Usually there were from three to five hundred in the county after the government removed them to Kansas. As a rule they were quiet and peaceable. In the early part of 1855, a man was killed in Ringgold county. It was charged to the Indians, although many thought the deed was done by white men. But it created great commotion in the different neighborhoods and the citizens put themselves as soon as possible in an attitude of defense, but this precaution was unnecessary as the Indians disclaimed responsibility for the murder, and continued on good terms with the whites. Buffalo had gone from this section at the time of settlement by the whites, but deer were plenty. Wolves were numerous and bold. It is told that one night a wolf sought to take Mrs. Woodford Dales' child from her arms in Mrs. Mohler's dooryard. Mr. Mohler at one time was attacked in his wagon by a black wolf or timber wolf as they were called.

Rattlesnakes were plentiful and bites were frequent, and whiskey was the unfailing antidote. The first girl baby born in the township was Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Meehan. Colonel Means, famous as a rebel sympathizer



in the first days of secession, is said to be the first man to preach the gospel in Clayton township. Rev. J. M. Stockton preached in the township a little later.

Daniel Greeson is said to have taught the first school. For many years the Baptists held services in schoolhouses in the township but a few years ago they built a neat church on section 24, on the state road and have a large membership, with regular services, and carry on the various departments of church work. The Methodists had an organization at the Beall schoolhouse, soon after the war, with a membership of twenty-five or thirty. The meetings were later held at the Bower's schoolhouse, Adam Wood and M. L. Payton being among the original members. Rev. Martindale was one of the early pastors, Rev. W. M. Van Vleet was later in charge. Rev. Hanshaw at one time preached to them, but for some time no regular organization has been kept up, the various members affiliating with churches in nearby towns.

Perhaps the only settler in this township in the fifties, who still resides there is J. C. Meehan, familiarly known as "Uncle John." He came to the county in 1851, and endured the hardships and privations incident to the settling of a new country, far removed from railroad and navigable streams. Mr. Meehan taught school for many years and no doubt many men of today have much to thank Uncle John, for, in the way of education and the example of an honest upright life. Mr. Meehan met with a severe accident on New Year's night, 1878, which narrowly missed being fatal. Having to come to town in the evening, he was walking home on the railroad track, facing a storm of wind and snow, which prevented his hearing the north bound train which struck him and threw him several feet from the track. He was picked up by the train crew and taken on to Conway, and returned to his home next day. His head and face were badly mutilated and for a time recovery was considered impossible, but his rugged constitution pulled him through and he is today as hale and hearty as could be expected of a man seventy-nine years old.

Mr. Meehan at one time served as county clerk and for many years was assessor of Clayton township.

One of the few tragedies of Taylor county occurred in Clayton township in 1869. In the north part of the township, Daniel and David Griffith had settled. Adjoining them lived a neighbor, named Knouse. The Griffiths' hogs had been breaking into Knouses' field, and one day Knouse went after them with a repeating rifle killing some of them. The Griffiths hearing the fusilade started over to where Knouse was shooting, and a quarrel ensued in which Knouse shot Daniel Griffith dead and severely wounded David. He was arrested and when the grand jury met he was indicted for murder. Hon. L. T. McCoun, defended him, and secured a change of venue to Ringgold county, where he was tried before Judge James G. Day, later of the supreme bench. He was found guilty of murder in the second degree and Judge Day sentenced him to the penitentiary for life. An appeal was made to the supreme court and the action of the lower court was reversed. At another trial in Ringgold county, Knouse was found guilty of manslaughter and was sentenced by Judge James W. McDill to five years in the penitentiary. He served three months and was pardoned out by Samuel Merrill, then governor of the state. C. C. Mohler has long been a resident of the township and resides on one of the best improved farms in the



county. He has a beautiful modern residence, substantial barns, fine orchards and a deer park, filled with some fine specimens of the game of pioneer days. George W. Keiffer, Simeon Wright, the Bealls, C. M. Stub, the Bowers, and many others of the early settlers who helped develop the township are dead or moved away.

Among the prominent farmers and stock raisers of the township at present are the following: William Belmont, S. N. Bristow, Caleb Gordon, W. D. Griffith, R. C. Griffith, E. J. Howe, S. Hartzler, F. P. Healey, who is noted as an authority on short horn cattle, and who has a fine herd, Ernest Lewis, J. I. and G. W. Larrison, George S. Mohler, John Mohler, C. C. Mohler, Howard Payton, J. H. Snyder, Joseph Skinner, Paul Hunter, the Watermans, C. B. Wysong, the Welch's and J. G. Virtue.

It may be of interest to show the increase in wealth in the township. From a value of a few hundred dollars in the '50s, the township has grown in wealth until at the last assessment the actual value of property is given at nine hundred and eleven thousand, five hundred and sixty-four dollars.

When the writer taught his first term of school it was at what was known as the Bowers' school, on the state road. The schoolhouse stood on what is now Howard Paton's farm. There were then five schoolhouses in the township. The township has since been redistricted and now has nine comfortable buildings valued at three thousand dollars. The past year they had eight and one-half months school. The number of children between the ages of five and twenty-one is one hundred and eighty-four; the total enrollment one hundred and sixteen. They paid teachers last year two thousand, five hundred and forty-three dollars. They have a library of three hundred and fifty-five volumes.

The present township officers are: clerk, J. L. Larrison; trustees: S. N. Bristow, William Osborne and I. W. Lawler; assessor, J. D. Douglas. There is a vacancy in the offices of justice and constable.

#### DALLAS TOWNSHIP.

Near the old town Memory, in Dallas township, there was a small settlement as early as 1846, but the names of the settlers there passed from the memory of those now living. Alexander Duncan came to the township in 1849 and settled on section 30, where he still resides. He and his estimable wife not long since celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary at which time they were the recipients of congratulations of many friends throughout the township and county. Samuel Scarlett, Eli Pangburn, Daniel McAlpin and Mr. Prickett, settled in the township about the time Mr. Duncan did. D. A. Thompson came in 1856, and located on section 19. Pat Smith a genial son of Erin, came about this time. Other settlers about this time were Eli Pangburn, on the northwest quarter of section 20; Jose Philpott, southwest of 18; Daniel McAlpin, northwest of 30; John McLain, southwest of 20; Esquire Dunn, section 26; Jonathan Adams, section 25; Luke Rawlings, section 7; Job Turner, section 14; Mr. Pointer on section 31; and John Krout, on section 31; William Glassgow, came in 1857 and located on section 10; Michael and James Judge, Mr. Code and

Mr. McBride, settled in the township in 1856; David Hawkins and Nathan Helmick, settled in the township about this time.

The first religious services in the township were held by the Cumberland Presbyterians. The Rev. J. M. Stockton, a resident of the township had the honor of being the first man to enunciate God's truths to the pioneers of the township.

The first Methodist service in the township was held at the home of Mr. Helmick, by the Rev. Isaac Kelley, who was well known in all southwest Iowa in the early days. In 1852, Rev. Samuel Farlow held meetings in the township. These early meetings were all held at the homes of settlers, it being before the time of schoolhouses and country churches. In the latter part of the fifties, the Methodists organized in Memory and in 1879, erected a very creditable building, which in 1882, was removed to New Market. Rev. Blagrow, a local preacher, was the first pastor of the congregation.

The Rev. James M. Smith, a Baptist missionary, held meetings in the township in 1856 or 1857, but the denomination was without organization, until 1880, when they organized at Memory. The Cumberland Presbyterian had an organization for many years at the center schoolhouse and in 1880, built a nice church. This denomination also had an organization at the old town of Memory. The Christian organization dates from 1860. The original members were: Thomas Prickett, Isaac Prickett, Hannah Prickett, Melinda Ray, Catherine Prickett, Hannah Ray and James Ray. Different pastors have been Rev. Hobbs, Dr. Baker, Elder Peregrine, Elder Cook, Elder January, Elder Warren, Elder Dunlavey and Elder William Cobb. Services were held at the Prairie Gum schoolhouse until the advent of the H. & S. railroad. They now have a creditable building and a large congregation at New Market. For a long time, the Free Methodists had two organizations in the township; one at the Glasgow schoolhouse and another at the Valley schoolhouse.

On connection with the mention of the Cumberland Presbyterians, it should be stated that their first permanent organization was made in 1871. Among the first members were: S. R. Jamison and wife; J. S. Taylor and wife; J. W. White and wife; I. W. Abbott and wife; William Taylor and H. A. Riggle. The different pastors have been: Rev. J. M. Stockton, Rev. A. Rippstor, Rev. W. C. Means and Rev. H. W. Zentz and Rev. J. D. M. Buckner. Later the services have been conducted by pastors from the organization in other towns, mention of which is made elsewhere. The Memory congregation was organized in 1878, with Rev. H. W. Zentz as pastor. Among the original members were: H. W. Zentz and wife; Mary Zentz; J. J. Croft; Elmira Croft; J. D. Nelson; Jessie Hughes; John Weaver and wife; Mrs. Davis; Laura Liggett; William Burlingame and wife and Mrs. Lamphoot. The Dallas Center M. E. church was organized in 1873, with John C. Taylor, Jonas Williams and wife, L. A. McDonald and wife and James Bramble and wife as initial members. Different early pastors were: Rev. Farlow, Rev. Lovejoy, Rev. Everly and Rev. Bishop and Rev. J. P. Evans.

Some time in the '80s, this congregation built a neat church building where for many years they grew in numbers and carried on the various departments of church work.



The first election in the township was held in 1857, at the residence of Michael Judge. There were twelve votes cast, just enough to fill the various offices, but as some declined to serve, two positions were thrust upon some of the citizens. D. A. Thompson was obliged to serve as justice of the peace and township clerk. His docket is said to have consisted of a few sheets of foolscap paper, but if tradition is correct, he needed nothing more, for the litigants met at the squire's home, swapped stories and ate a bountiful dinner before the case was called. After this, it seemed the litigants melted toward each other and could see no sense in lawing and would compromise and go home. The squire was therefore noted as a peacemaker. It is told of the squire that he had a law suit of his own at one time over a very fine hog he had shipped from Cincinnati, Ohio. He had employed the Hon. N. B. Moore, who was then a citizen of Bedford to prosecute his claim. The trial was actually begun but the squire became possessed of the notion that he would be beaten, so he dropped the suit and paid the costs. This he did against the protests of his attorney. Mr. Moore however, persuaded him to reopen the case which he did and obtained judgment for seventy-five dollars. This established Mr. Moore's reputation as an attorney in this part of the state.

In the fall of 1851, Erastus Thompson and Jane Farrens were married, this being the first marriage in the township. In 1855, John Townsend and a daughter of Matthew L. Davis were married. In 1858, William Coker and a sister of Alexander Duncan, were married.

The first deaths in the township were the two children of John Paris, and a Mr. Thomas, who committed suicide.

The winter of 1856-57, was very severe and it brought much suffering to the settlers of Dallas township. The wheat crop had been light and the corn had been ruined by an early frost. Many cattle died and those that were saved were kept alive by cutting elm trees and allowing the cattle to subsist on the bark. Provisions were short, money was scarce and teams were so weak from hunger, that a long trip was almost an impossibility. But the settlers went down into Missouri and obtained supplies, paying one dollar and twenty-five cents for corn and seven dollars per hundred for flour, traveling seventy miles to get it.

The first wheat raised was threshed out in the primitive way, by tramping it out, and they had it cracked at a little mill at Hawleyville, operated by Thomas East. The nearest flouring mill was nine miles southeast of Maryville and there the grain had to be taken. Later, a flouring mill was built at Hawleyville, which saved the settlers many laborious trips.

Amanda Duncan, daughter of Alexander Duncan, the first girl baby born in the township, was born May, 1850. Joseph Pointer, born 1852, was the first boy born in the township.

The value of the property of Dallas township at the last assessment, was eight hundred and forty-eight thousand, two hundred and ninety-six dollars.

From the last annual report of the county superintendent of schools, we note that Dallas has eight school districts with buildings valued at five thousand dollars. They had eight months school last year. There are two hundred and fifty persons between the ages of five and twenty-one, with an enrollment in

the schools of one hundred and ninety-five. The total amount paid teachers was two thousand, five hundred and twenty-one dollars. The school libraries contain all told, two hundred and seventy-two volumes.

It should have been stated sooner that the first schoolhouse in the township was built in 1857, and the men who had the honor of building it were D. A. Thompson, Alexander Duncan, Eli Pangburn, Jose Philpott, Daniel McAlpin and Pat Smith. It took planning, much work and considerable sacrifice to accomplish the task but it was done. The building was eighteen by twenty-four feet, and was built at a cost of two hundred and seventy dollars, a large sum for those days. A small portion of Dallas township is annexed to the Hawleyville district and usually twelve to fifteen pupils are enumerated in that district which cuts down the number properly belonging to Dallas.

As has been elsewhere stated, Alexander Duncan is still a resident of the township and John Noble, but recently left it, to live awhile in Ames, for the school advantages there. Others who have for years been identified with the township are the Glasgows, the Hicks, John Harris, John LeFever, the Lathrops, James and F. L. Marsh, W. E. McAlpin, Frank P. Oxley, George Shum, and others. Dallas ranks high as an agricultural township, which in addition to the coal mines, make it one of the greatest wealth producing townships in the county. The mining interests are treated more fully in history of New Market.

### ROSS TOWNSHIP.

Ross township, as will be seen in the chapter on township organization, was made into a municipal township and election precinct in February, 1858.

It was named for James Ross, who was a citizen of the township as early as 1845. He was the father of Jacob Ross, who surveyed the town site of Bedford.

Ross township enjoys the distinction of being the first seat of justice in Taylor county of which there is any record. It is true that at the time of holding this first session of court, Ross was not a township, Jackson, Benton and Polk townships then comprising the whole county.

Jacob Ross at this time lived on section 5 in a log cabin fourteen by fourteen feet, and here was held the first district court of Taylor county.

In a small book, such as a grocer would now use for his delivery book, which may be seen at the county clerk's office, is found an account of the proceedings. It is a matter of curiosity and we give it entire. It is in the handwriting of Judge Sloan, who is elsewhere mentioned. It is as follows:

At a district court of the sixth judicial district of the state of Iowa, begun and held on the third Monday, the 15th day of September, A. D. 1851, at the house of Jacob Ross, Taylor county, in the state of Iowa (being the courthouse protem for said county), pursuant to an act of the general assembly of the state of Iowa, entitled, an act to attach certain counties to the fifth judicial district and fixing the terms in the courts of the fifth and sixth judicial districts. Present:

The Hon. James Sloan, district judge; James B. Campbell, sheriff of said county and John Hayden, clerk of the district court for said county.

In the records and proceedings of said court, were the following:



The Hon. James Sloan took his seat. James B. Campbell produced evidence of his certificate of election, and oath and bond being duly filed as sheriff of said county. John Hayden also produced evidence of his certificate of election, oath of office and bond as clerk of the district court of said county. George P. Stiles, A. C. Ford and Jacob Dawson, Esquires, counsellors and attorneys at law, attended at court, having been hertofore admitted to practice in the district court in this district.

The court then appointed Jacob Dawson, Esq., prosecuting attorney for this term of the court and he took the oath of office required by law.

The grand jury were called and sworn and entered upon their duties. The court adjourned at six o'clock p. m., until nine o'clock a. m., tomorrow.

September 16, 1851—Court opened at nine o'clock a. m., pursuant to adjournment.

The grand jury returned a bill of indictment found against Isaac Dowis, and Edward S. Godsey for an assault and battery, with intent to commit a bodily injury, upon one John Hayden.

The grand jurors and petit jurors names were called and the time of their attendance regulated and they were discharged. The court was adjourned until the first Monday in April, next.

JAMES SLOAN, *Judge.*

JOHN HAYDEN, *Clerk District Court:*

From the above, it appears that the next term of the district court was set for the first Monday in April, 1852, but there is no record to be found of it, if court was held on that date.

In the meantime, Judge Sloan had resigned and the governor appointed the Hon. A. A. Bradford, district judge to fill the vacancy. The record shows that Judge Bradford was appointed May 4, 1852, and that a term of court was held at the residence of Jacob Ross, commencing July 9, 1852, and lasting two days.

Benjamin Rector of Fremont county was admitted to the bar and was appointed prosecuting attorney protem. At this term Benjamin Rector, L. Lingenfelter, C. P. Brown and J. M. Dawes, were enrolled as attorneys of this court. James Gartside of Jackson township was made a citizen of the United States at this term.

Dowis and Godsey were acquitted of a charge to commit a bodily injury upon John Hayden, and in a civil action brought against them by Hayden, they were successful, Hayden having the costs to pay, at least so the record indicates, but we have been told by William Hindman, at one time clerk of the county, that when Hayden was called on to pay the costs, he looked for the records of the case, but they could not be found. He stated that he always kept the records in a certain chink in the logs of his cabin and they had probably been carried off by mice. As no records of the costs could be found, he did not pay them.

Court adjourned to the third Monday in March, 1853.

This was the last term held in Ross township. The next was held at the residence of Judge Lowe, section 28, Benton township, on what is now the A. N. Dougherty farm.

Ross is one of the border townships, lying along the Missouri line; it was one of the earliest settled, with the exception of Clayton and Jackson. Jacob Miller was an early settler of Ross township. He built and operated the first mill in the township, somewhere along in the forties. It was not such a mill as would give the Washburn-Crosby people much concern were it in competition with their Minneapolis mills, yet no doubt it was considered a great affair by the early settlers. It was located southwest of Bedford about four miles, near where Benjamin Burke lives at present.

It could not grind wheat, corn alone being the only thing it could handle. It was in fact a "corn cracker," so often mentioned by old settlers. Its capacity was quite limited. If a farmer brought ten bushels of corn, he had to wait twenty-four hours for his grist. But this was enjoyed by the pioneers. They lived long distances apart and the mill was a favorite meeting place where they could visit while waiting.

Settlers were few. In 1845, there were but twelve families in the county. There were a few in Ringgold and a few over the line in Missouri, so they occasionally met at Miller's mill, swapped yarns, became acquainted, got interested in each other, and formed friendships that were never broken in life.

Another old settler was Brice Somers, but information concerning him is rather vague. Enoch Beauchamp, father of former Auditor J. W. Beauchamp and J. C., both of whom were until recently citizens of the county. Mr. Beauchamp settled on section 29 in 1858, grew up with the country and prospered as the country prospered. He died some years ago at a ripe old age, honored by all who knew him.

D. M. Greeson was another pioneer, who prospered. He came to the county in 1856, and was a citizen until a few years ago, when he went in search of new fields.

A little later came H. C. Beard, E. M. McCormick, J. P. Reighter, James McMonigal, John Swain, Andrew Spencer, the Rogers, Henry Hamilton, Howard Hinsley, Walker and Simeon Butts, D. Bailie, the Daltons, R. G. Moon, and Teachner. Nearly all are dead or moved away. Howard Hensley, Andrew Spencer and E. McCormick, have retired from active work and reside in Bedford. D. Bailie removed to Shenandoah a few months ago. R. G. Moon, for many years has resided in Bedford. J. W. Butts still lives on his farm in the township.

The Methodist brotherhood had the first church organization of which we have any record. They organized in 1859 and after the districting of the township, held services in the Patch schoolhouse. The original members were: D. Martin and wife, J. Hatfield and wife, William Townsend and wife, William Simmons and wife, R. Simmons, Wesley, Lemuel, Alexander, Albert and Horace Underwood, and C. F. Drescher and wife. They held regular services for many years and built up a large membership. Their first pastor was the Rev. Peterson, who later edited a temperance journal in Des Moines.

The Disciples, organized in 1875 and held their services for several years at the Patch schoolhouse, where they had a membership of eighty. In 1893, they built a neat chapel near Ross Center, and it is called the Berea church with membership of about one hundred and fifty. They have regular services, Sun-



day-school and all of the various departments of church work. They have had several pastors, but Elder William Cobb has rendered longer and harder service in their behalf, than all of the others. In 1905, a number of Disciples in the southeast corner of the township with others over the line in Missouri, built a church near the Eagle schoolhouse, where they have a small but growing congregation.

As early as 1859, the Baptists held services, with Elder Otis as pastor, in the Hazel Dell neighborhood and later held their meetings in the schoolhouse. In 1897, they built a neat church of their own, where they have regular services. They have a substantial membership and are doing active work. The Creston branch of the Burlington follows the East One Hundred and Two river, through Ross. Just below the line, has grown up the thrifty town of Hopkins, where many Ross and Polk township citizens trade and market the products of their farms.

Ross is divided into nine school districts. In 1901, the citizens of the township voted to organize into independent districts, preferring this to the township plan.

Following from the county superintendent's annual report, will show by districts, the standing of the township, educationally.

NUMBER 1—UNION.

Value of building .....	\$625.00
Value of apparatus .....	\$ 25.00
Number Volumes in library .....	77
Number enrolled in school .....	20
Average daily attendance .....	18
Paid teachers since last report .....	\$295.00

NUMBER 2.

Value of building .....	\$650.00
Value of apparatus .....	\$ 15.00
Volumes in library .....	25
Number enrolled in the school .....	16
Average daily attendance .....	14
Paid teachers since last report .....	\$306.00

NUMBER 3—EUREKA.

Value of building .....	\$500.00
Value of apparatus .....	\$ 40.00
Volumes in library .....	61
Number enrolled in the school .....	24
Average daily attendance .....	17
Paid teachers since last report .....	\$360.00

NUMBER 4.

Value of buildings .....	\$500.00
Value of apparatus .....	\$ 20.00
Volumes in library .....	20
Number enrolled in the school .....	22
Average daily attendance .....	16
Paid teachers since last report .....	\$320.00

## NUMBER 5.

Value of buildings .....	\$600.00
Value of apparatus .....	\$ 15.00
Volumes in library .....	40
Number enrolled in the school .....	16
Average daily attendance .....	11
Paid teachers since last report .....	\$257.50

## NUMBER 6—BANNER.

Value of buildings .....	\$800.00
Value of apparatus .....	\$ 60.00
Volumes in library .....	62
Number enrolled in the school .....	21
Average daily attendance .....	16
Paid teachers since last report .....	\$300.00

## NUMBER 7—EAGLE.

Value of buildings .....	L.....\$500.00
Value of apparatus .....	\$100.00
Volumes in library .....	20
Number enrolled in the school .....	34
Average daily attendance .....	21
Paid teachers since last report .....	\$305.00

## NUMBER 8.

Value of buildings .....	\$400.00
Value of apparatus .....	\$ 20.00
Volumes in library .....	26
Number enrolled in the school .....	21
Average daily attendance .....	16
Paid teachers since last report .....	\$365.00

## NUMBER 9—HAZEL DELL.

Value of buildings .....	\$600.00
Value of apparatus .....	\$ 37.00
Volumes in library .....	12
Number enrolled in the school .....	10
Average daily attendance .....	7
Paid teachers since last report .....	\$200.00

Ross is one of the finest agricultural townships in the county. Many of her citizens raise stock on a large scale, consequently in material wealth she ranks with the highest. The assessed valuation of her property being eight hundred and ninety-one thousand, nine hundred and eighty-four dollars. The present township officers are: Clerk, Fred Marley; trustees, R. B. Jared, George Reece and T. H. Hensley; assessor, W. L. Dorr.

## GAY TOWNSHIP.

As stated elsewhere in the chapter on township organization, this township formed a part of Jefferson until the September term of the board of supervisors,



1869. At this session, Captain John Flick, representing Jefferson township as supervisor, had it set off and given the name of "Gay."

The first settlers of Gay township were William King, J. C. Smalley, and H. H. Wintermute. The first schoolhouse built in the township was on Platte Branch, just south of the state road, and for many years it was known as the "Gay Street Schoolhouse," and here elections and all public gatherings were held, but as population increased it was necessary to redistrict the township and the old schoolhouse was removed and its exact location is known only to the old timers. Hon. L. W. Hillyer, was an old settler of the township, coming there long before its organization as a township. In 1863 Mr. Hillyer was elected to the state senate from this district, which then comprised the counties of Taylor, Page, Montgomery, Adams, Ringgold, Clark and Union. It is said that his record in the upper house of the general assembly was satisfactory to his constituents. Among other men who figured prominently in the early history of the township were W. D. Blakemore, who served his township as a member of the board of supervisors and later served his county with credit in the state legislature. John Hunter was another who deserves mention as a promoter of the public interests of his township and county. Paul Hunter, ex-county clerk and at present a member of the board of supervisors, is his son. John Hartley, now a citizen of Naloy, figured prominently in township and county affairs, and was leader of the democratic organization of the township. Daniel Propst came to the township in 1856. S. B. Hickenlooper located on section 33 in 1858, and lived there until he retired from farming and moved to Blockton.

Gay township is one of the best, from an agricultural standpoint, in the county. It lies well, has a splendid soil and produces abundant crops, which naturally makes it the home of fine-stock raisers. Among the successful farmers and stock raisers of the township at present are: the Avey brothers, who farm the home place since their father's retirement and removal to Blockton, Lloyd Payton, J. G. Boling, David R. Dowlin, William Ewart, W. S. Franklin, G. F. Fluharty, I. N. Hughes, Joe Harvey, William Hughes, Charles Hunter, R. Livingston, William Mullen, Alex Scroggie, Lewis Swearingen, W. G. Sharp, J. F. Walkup, J. H. Wintermute, William Wildman, A. L. Wintermute, H. G. Wintermute.

The Methodists had an organization at the old Gay Street schoolhouse, at an early day and the preaching was supplied by pastors of Blockton and Bedford. Rev. T. P. Newland, a resident of Bedford in the latter part of the '70s, was their pastor for a while. At present, the organization is at Gay Center schoolhouse, where they hold regular preaching service and have a flourishing Sunday-school and contribute their share to general church work.

Illustrating the present prosperity of this township, is the report of the last assessment, which gives the valuation at eight hundred and ninety-seven thousand, five hundred and four dollars. The citizens of Gay township have always given careful attention to educational matters as the last report shows. They have eight subdistricts with buildings valued at four thousand dollars. The number of school age is one hundred and fifty-nine, with one hundred and forty-six actually enrolled in the schools. Last year, they paid two thousand, three hundred and sixty dollars to teachers and they have one hundred and fifty volumes in the various school libraries.



The present township officers are: clerk, W. R. Wildman; trustees, C. M. King, G. F. Warren and J. F. Walkup; assessor, Charles Hunter. The township seldom needs the services of justice or constable, the citizens being peaceful and law abiding; hence there is a vacancy in those offices at present.

### NODAWAY TOWNSHIP.

At a session of the county court in 1858, a petition was received from the citizens of township 70, range 35, asking for the organization of their township. The board granted the petition and ordered an election held at the house of James R. Foster on the first Monday in April, for the election of township officers. Nodaway is the eleventh township in the list to be organized.

Among the first settlers were John B. Henshaw, John B. West, Mr. Dodson, Washington Kendrick, James R. Foster, E. J. Spalding, Fletcher Brown and Peter Guerney. The first school taught in the township is said to have been at the home of Isaac B. West on section 7 and James Foster was the teacher. For many years there were three church organizations in the township, two Methodist and one Second Adventist.

One of the Methodist organizations met at the schoolhouse in district No. 6 and among the original members were: Mrs. Fletcher Brown, Mrs. James Gale, Mrs. R. V. Kelley, and H. B. Hales and wife. It has numbered among its pastors such well known preachers as Rev. Eberly, Rev. W. P. Bishop, Rev. Samuel Farlow, Rev. Kern and Rev. J. P. Evans.

The other Methodist organization was at the schoolhouse in district No. 8, and it also flourished for years, but after the location of the postoffice Guss and the establishing of a store there and blacksmith, the Methodist people along in the 80's built a neat and substantial church, where they have a large membership, with regular services. A flourishing Sunday-school and other of the regular organizations are maintained in connection. The Second Adventists organized in district number 9, in 1873. D. Q. Kent was pastor for many years.

Nodaway township has the east branch of the Nodaway river along its entire west side. The stream is well wooded. Along the east border of the township is the West One Hundred and Two river. The greater part of the farm land is on the wide ridge between these two streams and here are found some of the best kept farms in the county. The entire community is thrifty and contented. Educational and moral questions receive careful attention as is evidenced by their large church organization and their well kept schoolhouses. In addition to the agricultural interests of the township, considerable coal has been mined on the west side of the township the neighborhood of the postoffice of Hanshaw, where a store was put in to accommodate the miners. These mines have nearly all given out, and the only ones in active operation now are near the Lambley place in district No. 9. There are two mines here, one operated by C. E. Ankeny and the other by Nathan Wilcox. While the output of these mines is not great, it furnishes employment to quite a number of men.

The citizens of this township take great pride in their schools.

Following is the report of the schools of the township, taken from the annual report of the county superintendent:



Number of schoolhouses .....	9
Value of buildings .....	\$4,800.00
Value of apparatus .....	142.00
Number of volumes in libraries .....	368
Number of pupils enrolled in the schools .....	242
Average daily attendance .....	137
Paid teachers last year .....	\$3,060

The assessed valuation of property in Nodaway township is \$987,264.

The township officers for the years 1908-1909, are: Justices, W. E. Brown and J. W. Irwin; constable, I. C. Eastman; clerk, C. B. Kimpton; trustees, W. H. Swan, C. R. Andrew and William Bell; assessor, C. N. Rogers.

A few of the present well known citizens of the township, are: W. E. Brown, one time sheriff of the county; E. S. Bowman; W. H. Cochran, Joseph, J. P., and Frank Clement; G. W. Dennis and sons; W. H. and G. H. C. E. Eastman; H. C. Freuck; N. R. Fuller; Joseph Groff; L. O. Hess; the Johnsons, P. V., C. E., C. W. and George W.; C. P. Kimpton; R. V. Kelley; Harvey Moats; S. D. Maxcord; P. H. and C. W. Peterson; Lewis and William Rock; J. M. Sturgeon; W. H. Swan; C. W. Walker; A. Wallahan; William Weller.

### GROVE TOWNSHIP.

This township enjoys the distinction of being the last congressional township organized. In 1870 at the September session of the board of supervisors, a petition was presented by citizens, asking for separate organization. The petition was granted and in April, 1871, the township was organized with Edwin Houck as clerk; Van R. Strong, T. V. Williams and Samuel Johnston, trustees.

Grove township is one of the most fertile in the county, nearly all of it being susceptible of cultivation. It is famous as a corn-producing township and vast numbers of hogs and cattle are raised and fatted every year.

The Colgroves, Carters and Gordons are among the well-known names that figure in the early history of the township. Grove outranks many of her sisters in material wealth, her valuation at the last assessment being one million, nine thousand, six hundred and seventy-six dollars. Grove ranks among the first in educational matters. There are nine subdistricts, and the buildings are valued at two thousand, five hundred and fifty dollars. They had eight and one-fourth months school last year. The children of school age number two hundred and twenty-seven, with an enrollment in the schools of two hundred and twenty-one. The teachers of the township last year were paid two thousand, five hundred and ninety-seven dollars and there are one hundred and ninety-four volumes in the school libraries.

The first teacher of the township, after organization, was Miss Eva McCloud, who now resides in Bedford, and who taught continuously in the Bedford schools for more than twenty years, resigning only a year ago.

The first marriage in the township was that of J. W. Johnson and Miss Evaline Allen. Mr. and Mrs. David Bacon were the parents of the first girl

baby, whom they named Jennie. There is a difference of opinion as to whom the honor belongs of being the first boy born in the township. It is claimed by some that James T. Johnson was the first and still other authorities are equally positive that the first boy born was a son of Van R. Strong.

For a time there were no church organizations in the township, the people worshipped at Lenox, Hayden Grove, and at Bethel in Platte township. Now the Christian people have a good church building at Blue Grove and have a large membership, keep a regular pastor, have a good Sunday-school and Endeavor Society and rank in regular church work with any church in the county. The Methodist and Presbyterian Brethren worship at Sharpsburg or Lenox, where each denomination is well represented.

The present township officers are: clerk, D. L. Carter; trustees, W. J. Kilby, C. J. Trost and S. J. Key; assessor, Bert Hill.

Among present prominent farmers of the township now are: L. C. Boltinghouse, George H. Beach, I. H. Cade, the Carters and Gordons, Dan Clarey, G. S. Hunter, John Hill, J. M. Heaton, Frank Heath, W. I. Knobb, J. W. Maloney, S. A. Matthews, John Nagle, C. F. Paymal, John Shoenhair, Simeon Sapp, and Charles Winslow.

### WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

Washington township was organized in 1855, being the fifth in the list. It was only a year later than Ross. It will be seen in the chapter on Township organization that the boundaries of Washington at this time were much more extensive than now. It then included with its present territory, all of what now constitutes Dallas, Grove, Holt, and Nodaway.

The earliest settlers were Greenville Abbott, John Rutledge, D. W. Hamblin, Albert Churchill, W. D. Burge, Jacob Kerslin and Rev. E. Otis, who will be remembered as one of the pioneer preachers for the Baptists in this part of the state. With Elder J. M. Smith, he labored for years among the early settlers and he is still remembered kindly by many of the citizens of the county.

D. W. Hamblin was a man who enjoyed the confidence of his neighbors to the fullest extent, representing them for many years on the board of supervisors.

Elder Perigine is said to be the first to proclaim the gospel in the township.

On section 4, near the Abe McCracken farm, was built the first schoolhouse, but the first teacher seems to have been forgotten. At one time there was a post-office on section 20, bearing the name of Gravity. It was discontinued in 1878.

In 1876 the Disciples of the township organized a church at No. 2 schoolhouse, better known as the Cottage Grove school. This organization had a membership of forty or fifty, and grew and flourished until the location of the town of Gravity. Elder Parkhurst, of Missouri, was for several years their pastor.

Dr. Luther Bent, of Bedford, ministered to the physical ailments of these people for many years. Later Dr. McColun, was the practitioner over this section until his death.

Settlers a little later than those mentioned were: James Moneyhan, J. W. Paul, B. F. Chandler, John Rutledge and T. O. Wilson.



Among the present thrifty farming population of Washington township are the Akers brothers, Judson Beemer, C. T. Barkley, Harlan Burge, James Chambers, W. L. Chandler, C. R. Chamberlain, Thomas Cole, A. E. Churchill, Thomas Dugan, James Elliott, Archie Fleming, Fred Fisher, Frank Greely, E. M. Humphrey, J. W. Humphrey, A. A. Hamblin, C. N. Hargardin, Jesse Lovett, William Martin, L. F. Phillips, Thomas Preston, J. W. Pfander, William H. Price, L. Rogers, Don Ray, C. R. Steeves, R. J. Wallace.

Last year's school report is as follows: Number of schoolhouses, 9; value of buildings, \$6,275; value of apparatus, 98; number of volumes in library, 92; number enrolled in the schools, 208; average daily attendance, 134; amount paid teachers last year, \$2,828.75.

The present township officers are: Elmer Brown and H. N. Ray, justices; A. D. Neville, constable; J. S. Nevins, clerk; L. E. Morley, Riley Lee and George Brand, trustees; R. H. Akers, assessor.

### JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP.

At the February session of the county court, 1858, the court ordered that townships 67 and 68, north range 32 west, should be a municipal township and should be called Jefferson, in honor of Thomas Jefferson. Several settlers were there before the organization, however, chief among them being Jesse Gyll, Frank Hindman, William P. Meddles, Andrew Baker, James Melser, James Martin, S. R. Martin, Price Thacker and A. and Thomas Heaton, who located in the vicinity of Platteville. Over on the Platte river in the neighborhood of where old Mormontown was later laid out, were Jonathan Cooksey, M. B. and P. J. Wisdom. Awhile later came Isaac King, John King, Jacob Reed, Dr. J. R. Standley, Captain John Flick, C. Swift, David Sleeth and Dr. Grover. We are told that the first marriage in the township was that of Vance J. Wilson and Eliza Thompson. Catherine Sweet had the honor of being the first girl baby born in the township. She was the daughter of Cyrus and Rebecca Sweet. A Mrs. Moore was the first to die. Dr. J. R. Standley and Dr. Grover were the first physicians and they were both located at Platteville.

Dr. Grover later went to Illinois, while Dr. Standley, many years ago, gave up the practice of medicine and devoted himself to farming and stock raising. The doctor was a shrewd business man and finally owned nearly two thousand acres of land with cattle and sheep on a thousand hills. But five or six years ago, the doctor, feeling the infirmities of age creeping upon him, retired from farming and spent the time in Bedford until his death last year.

Dr. Bellus was a physician of the township in the old Mormontown days, and enjoyed a large practice. Rev. J. M. Smith was the first Baptist clergyman. He preached at Morris on Platte branch, and a church was organized which flourished for a long time. Rev. J. P. Evans, who afterward located in Hawleyville was the first Methodist preacher in the township. Rev. Bott was the organizer of the Methodist church at Mormontown. The Methodist people built a two thousand dollar church in 1873, and for many years had a large membership. Rev. J. W. Botts, Rev. Lovejoy, Rev. DeTar and Rev. Newland are among the various pastors of the church. In the southeast corner of the township the



Disciples had an organization as long ago as 1874. From an original membership of seven it grew to nearly two hundred. They built a neat chapel known as the Pleasant Ridge church. Rev. William Cobb was for several years their pastor.

In giving the history of Jefferson township it would not be complete, in fact, it could hardly be written without including Platteville. The earliest settlements being about Platteville. Its history is closely interwoven with that of the township, in fact, the makers of the township lived about this, the oldest town in the county, whose plat is still a matter of record. Platteville is located on what should be a part of Gay township, but for school purposes a portion of Gay was, many years ago, annexed to Jefferson. The town has, since long before the war, been a trading point. It has always had one and sometimes two stores, a church, school, a blacksmith shop and postoffice. Until Dr. Grover came to Bedford they have always had a resident physician. Later than Dr. Grover and Dr. Standley, previously mentioned, were Dr. I. K. King, who afterward practiced in Bedford, and still later Dr. V. R. King, who also came to Bedford where he practiced for several years, then removed to Hopkins, practicing there until he received an appointment from the government as superintendent of the national cemetery at Seven Pines, Virginia, near Richmond. Last year his death occurred and he was buried in the cemetery there. Jacob Reed, who lived many years about two and a half miles southeast of Platteville, owned fifteen hundred acres of land and was esteemed by all his neighbors as a man of high character. His death occurred several years ago, and his sons still live in the vicinity. Captain John Flick, one of the Taylor county boys that distinguished himself in the service of his country from 1861 to 1865, lived a half mile south of Platteville and served his township as a member of the board of supervisors and various township offices. He was a natural lawyer and had he entered the profession in his younger days, he no doubt would have achieved success. In cases before a justice of the township the captain was often retained as counsel by one of the litigants. Frequently "Squire" Thomas Patter was the attorney on the other side, which insured a crowd of spectators.

The first school in the township was taught at Platteville, where the first schoolhouse was built. The first school building was quite a pretentious affair, costing six hundred dollars, which was raised by taxation. The house was built by J. A. Evans. Thomas King was the first teacher and received the princely salary of twenty dollars per month. D. C. King taught the first school at Morrontown about the same time and was paid thirty dollars per month.

Mrs. Frank Hindman and Mrs. Spencer are said to have the honor of weaving the first cloth in the township.

In 1857 and 1858, all of the provisions brought into the township were purchased in St. Joseph, Missouri, and there being no corn in the county the people went to Platte county, Missouri, for it, and they traveled over a county having no roads, and the streams no bridges. Captain John Flick and S. A. Fulton sold the first grain that went out of the township. It was wheat and they hauled it to Savannah.

July 5, 1855, the settlers of the township became alarmed at the action of the Indians and feared a general massacre. It proved to be a scare, however, but



the settlers had hastened to "Fort Parker," which has been mentioned in the chapter on Clayton township. It was where Stephen H. Parker then lived, just east of Honey creek on the Platteville road. The farm is now owned by E. N. Jarvis.

For school purposes Jefferson is divided into independent districts of which there are four, besides Platteville, independent. Following is the superintendent's report by districts:

## BIG SPRINGS.

Value of buildings .....	\$350
Value of apparatus .....	50
Number of volumes in library .....	43
Number of pupils enrolled .....	20
Average daily attendance .....	12
Paid teachers last year .....	250

## HOPE.

Value of buildings .....	\$500
Value of apparatus .....	40
Number of volumes in library .....	
Number of pupils enrolled .....	14
Average daily attendance .....	11
Paid teachers last year .....	207

## PLATTE RIVER.

Value of buildings .....	\$1100
Value of apparatus .....	100
Number of volumes in library .....	22
Number of pupils enrolled .....	26
Average daily attendance .....	14
Paid teachers last year .....	295

## WORKS.

Value of buildings .....	\$800
Value of apparatus .....	50
Number of volumes in library .....	38
Number of pupils enrolled .....	43
Average daily attendance .....	22
Paid teachers last year .....	288

## PLATTEVILLE, INDEPENDENT.

Value of buildings .....	\$400
Value of apparatus .....	10
Number of volumes in library .....	18
Number of pupils enrolled .....	25
Average daily attendance .....	12
Paid teachers last year .....	260

The assessed valuation of Jefferson township property is six hundred and fifty-two thousand five hundred and forty-four. The present township officers are: justice, B. F. Kauble; constable, David Woods; clerk, I. V. Wright; trustees, John Fordyce, Asa Terrill and C. M. Fluke; assessor, J. S. Kennedy.

Jefferson is a small township but the above school reports, and the assessed value shows that it is not least in importance. While nearly all of the men are dead who shaped its early destiny, it has had able men to take their places. W. D. Blakemore, who lived for years in the township, and still has a large farm there, took an active part in all public questions. He was, at one time, member of the board of supervisors and has represented his county in the state legislature. A. B. Fordyce, now a resident of Blockton, still owns a fine farm near Platteville. Asa Terrill, now in business in Blockton, operated his farm for several years and made a success of it. Others, now residents of the township, are: J. W. and J. M. Adams; M. F. Baity, who has been secretary of the school board in Works district so long that "the mind of man runneth not to the contrary;" Jerry, Nathan and Irwin Cordell; Enoch Campbell; John Fordyce; M. E. Ford; C. M. Fluke; L. P. Jenkins; J. S. Kennedy; J. P. Keenan; C. M. Jenks; B. F. Kauble; W. E. and P. E. King; J. W. Large; A. A. Morgan; Sol. Merriman; S. A. McCalla; Owen Ostrander; J. W., M. A. and George B. Reed; J. E. and F. H. Roper; W. S. Severns; Elmer and H. W. Sickles, and W. R. Watson.

#### NEW MARKET.

The old town of Memory was one of the first postoffices in the county. Long before the Civil war was thought of, there was a considerable settlement in the vicinity. These settlers are mentioned in the chapter on Dallas township. When the H. & S. road was built through the county in 1881, it missed Memory by nearly a mile, so there was nothing to do for the citizens of Memory, but to move their town to the railroad, which they proceeded to do. The site was selected for its natural advantages, which are ideal.

The town grew rapidly and now numbers about eight hundred people. New Market has some advantages over other towns in the county in being adjacent to a fine agricultural region, also to the most important coal mining section of the county.

All lines of business are well represented and the town is an excellent trading point. There are four general stores. Mason Brothers, Morrell & Hanshaw, F. A. Swan and E. T. Ross. There are two meat markets: one run by Johnson and Swope, the other by D. L. Hankins. There are two good hardware stocks. One is handled by Rogers Bros. the other by John Pointer. The two racket stores are conducted by Otto Hicks and Pace Brothers. Mrs. Tando and Mrs. Pointer each have a good millinery store. Three restaurants feed the hungry. One owned by John Tando, another by E. Corbin, and the third by F. P. Bemis. F. M. Wiley has a large furniture stock and has an undertaking department in connection. There are two harness shops, one owned by Forbes & Landon, the other by Seth Alvord.

Rose & Moore have the only lumber yard. They carry a big stock and compete with neighboring towns. J. B. Archer, is the stock and grain dealer. The agricultural implements are handled by J. S. Harris. There are two blacksmith shops. One operated by Heaten and Young and the other by Arthur Littlewood.



The town boasts of three livery barns, one still run by the old veteran in the business, Dick Morgan, another by G. Stewart, and the third by Dr. McCollm and Dr. Kitchen, who are the physicians of New Market and both have all the work they can attend to.

The first bank was put in by Butler and Foster of Clarinda, about 1882. Senator Frank Arthand was cashier at one time. He was followed by H. E. Tomlinson, who is still with the bank.

In 1905, it was reorganized and made a savings bank, with a capital of thirty thousand dollars. From the statement published in May, 1909, the deposits are shown to be one hundred and eleven thousand, seven hundred and forty-eight dollars and sixty-five cents. J. S. Harris is vice-president and H. E. Tomlinson, cashier, J. W. Denney, assistant cashier.

The Peoples Bank was opened for business in 1902. Robert Dougherty is president, T. M. Dougherty, vice-president and O. E. Dougherty, cashier. The individual responsibility of the bank is given as sixty thousand dollars. In a statement issued February 1, 1909, the capital stock is given as ten thousand dollars, with deposits of one hundred and twenty-one thousand and fifty-nine dollars and eighty-seven cents.

New Market leads all of the towns of the county, excepting Bedford, in its number of attorneys. E. A. Pace is the oldest in point of residence and practice. T. M. Dougherty is the other. He is our present county attorney.

Three hotels do business in the town. They are managed by Mrs. J. B. Archer, Mrs. Robbins and E. Corbitt, respectively.

Norral Reeves, ex-county recorder, is the only exclusive insurance man in the town. He writes business for the Hawkeye.

The New Market News was founded by Pierce and Lucas in 1883 and made by them a good paper, with a growing subscription list. It is now known as the New Market Herald, but why it changed its name we were unable to learn. Winton R. Markley has owned and edited the paper for some time. When he took charge, he put in new type and many of the modern accessories to a newspaper office; built a neat office, and gets out a bright newsy paper, that would be a credit to any town. The citizens appreciate the value of the paper to their town and patronize it liberally.

E. Huddle has a feed mill that is quite a convenience to the farmers of the vicinity.

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, the coal interests in the vicinity of New Market, are of great benefit to the business of the town. We are indebted to Mr. Roderick Campbell, manager of the Campbell Coal Co., for our information concerning the coal mines. Mr. Campbell is well informed on the subjects of mines and mining, and is the oldest man in the business in New Market. Mr. Campbell says that the coal area underlying the northwest part of Taylor county, belongs to the same field that extends into Adams and Page counties, and is what is termed the Missouri formation, geologically known as the upper coal measures. The vein is from forty to one hundred and sixty feet below the surface and is from fifteen to eighteen inches thick, and has but very little dip. In the chapter on Nodaway township, the mines in the vicinity of Hanshaw were mentioned as having practically given out only one or two being in operation at

the present time. The principal development of the mining industry has been in the vicinity of New Market, where mines have been in active operation since 1880. A number of mines opened in the past have given out. Since the opening of the field here, Mr. Campbell states that there has been in all twenty-nine shafts sunk, at a cost of twenty thousand dollars. At present there are but four mines in active operation, with an output of two thousand bushels a day when running at their full capacity. From seventy-five to one hundred men could be given employment, but owing to the scarcity of labor, the last two or three years, the operators have been unable to get a sufficient number of miners, consequently they have been unable to supply the demand. For furnace or heating purposes, this coal ranks with any mined in the state.

Mr. Campbell informs us that in 1906, there were mined in the county four hundred and ninety-two thousand, three hundred bushels of coal, with a market value of forty-six thousand, four hundred and eighty-one dollars, and seventy-six men were employed. It is estimated that at least eighty-five per cent of this was produced at New Market, so it may be readily seen the benefit it is to the town from a business standpoint, and citizens of the town and vicinity get cheap fuel, the coal costing at the mine but nine or ten cents per bushel. In Bedford, only fourteen miles away, coal costs from twenty to twenty-seven cents per bushel.

Of the four active mines what is known as number one, is located one-half mile east of New Market, on the Keokuk & Western railroad. It is operated by Howes and Pullen; the shaft is one hundred and sixty feet in depth. A quarter of a mile east of this is the Campbell mine, operated by the Campbell Coal Company. The shaft at this mine is one hundred and fifty feet deep. Just east of this is the old Ben Anderson mine, which is now owned by Y. F. Pace, who leases it to the Union Coal Company. A mile east of this mine near the One Hundred and Two river, is the mine owned and operated by Nathan Easter. The shaft of this mine is but ninety feet in depth. With the exception of the Campbell mine, there have been many changes in ownership in the last few years. The Campbells have been in the business since 1888, and show no inclination to give up the business.

Underlying the coal, is a bed of shale from three to four feet in thickness. Experts say this shale would make a fine quality of pressed brick, and it seems strange that such an industry has not been started. Some time the necessary capital for the development of this industry will be forth-coming, as street paving even in small towns is becoming quite fashionable and good brick making material is scarce.

New Market has four church organizations: Methodist, Baptist, Christian and Mennonite. The membership of the Baptist church is about one hundred. The church was organized in 1882 and the building erected in 1883. J. R. Baker and wife, Judge Harris and wife, J. Covender and wife, Mrs. Parsons, Mr. and Mrs. Fouts, Frank Covender and wife, D. H. Baker and wife and Mrs. Beecher, were among the organizers. Rev. See was their first pastor and Rev. E. B. Osborne is the present pastor.

The organizers of the Memory Methodist church have been mentioned and their early struggles recounted in another chapter. They had a building, which



at the time it was built was the admiration of all who saw it. When New Market was located, the Methodists were first on the ground with a building, moving it up from Memory in 1882. This structure served their purpose until 1903 when it was replaced with a new, modern church building that adds much to the beauty of the town. Rev. Louis Watson is their pastor, and the church is doing earnest work in the cause of the Master. The Mennonite church has a large membership, has a comfortable building and carry on all of the various departments of their church work. Rev. E. J. Menaegh is their present pastor. The Christian church was organized in the early history of the town. Ten or twelve years ago they built a substantial church and at present there is a large membership. Elder Harris is their pastor.

Of the civic societies New Market has the strongest I. O. O. F. lodge in the county, outside of Bedford. Their present membership numbers one hundred and twenty-one. There are ten lodges in the county with a total membership of seven hundred and seventy, and Bedford Lodge numbers two hundred and fourteen, so it may be seen that the New Market Lodge outranks the other towns. A year or two ago they built a brick building at a cost of six thousand five hundred dollars. It is probably the best building in the town. They have one of the finest lodge rooms in southwest Iowa, on the second floor. The lower floor is rented for a store room. The Masons have a good organization with a growing membership, but as yet have no building of their own.

The railroad business for the town shows the thrift of the community. While it is not possible to give shipments in less than carload lots, this alone speaks eloquently for this part of the county. From the report of the auditor of the Keokuk and Western railroad for the last fiscal year, we find that from New Market were shipped twenty-four carloads of grain, five loads of horses, forty-three of cattle, one hundred loads of hogs and one load of sheep. The last assessment of New Market corporation and school district shows a valuation of four hundred and thirty-nine thousand two hundred and fifty-six. The New Market schools are a source of pride to the community. The rapid increase in school population has caused old buildings to be outgrown. When a four-room school-house was built it was thought that would be large enough for their needs for all time, but in 1900 it was found that more room must be provided, so a five-room building was erected at a cost of nearly seven thousand dollars. It is built on modern plans, and is convenient and comfortable but it should have been larger. The same question, that of more room, will soon come up again. There were last year two hundred and twelve pupils enrolled in the school with an average attendance of one hundred and fifty-five. In the school library are eighty-one volumes. Last year they paid teachers one thousand six hundred and eighteen dollars.

The teaching corps consists of a superintendent and four assistants. Until lately but eight months' school was held, but the present progressive board has decided to have full nine months hereafter. They have also raised the wage scale, and taken other steps to better their schools.

The course of study is carried up to the tenth year, which gives two years of high school work. If the growth of the town is as rapid in the future as it

has been in the past, but a short time well elapse until they will have a full high school course.

The present city officers are: mayor, E. A. Pace; clerk, F. M. Wiley; marshal, S. T. Selby; treasurer, T. M. Dougherty; members of town council, H. E. Tomlinson, G. A. Plowman, Henry Barker, H. T. Beaver, J. B. Morsell.

### GRAVITY.

The town of Gravity is located about eight miles northwest of the county seat. It was platted in 1881 the year the Keokuk and Western Railroad was built through the county. It has grown rapidly, both in population and in a substantial business way. Although so near Bedford the county seat and the largest town in the county, Gravity has steadily grown. Her business men have enlarged their business, and have by their sound business methods, widened their territory and increased their trade. The town draws much trade from the north and west, in one of the wealthiest agricultural sections of the county, which trade formerly went to Villisca and Corning.

Citizens who are in position to closely estimate the population of the town give it as eight hundred and fifty or nine hundred. The town was incorporated in 1883 and T. J. Davis was the first mayor—Falen was the first town clerk and he also edited the first paper, the *Gravity Express*.

Frank Duncan was the first city marshal. The first city council was composed of John Stouder, George Brookman, Sam Robinson, Frank Johnson, William Millinger and Howe Penn.

The first postmaster was Frank McColm. Dr. J. T. McColm put in the first stock of drugs, and Stouder and Son the first general store. Samuel Taylor was one of the early business men. George Brookman and W. W. Clark were the first contractors and builders and are still following their trade in Gravity. G. L. Brookman bought the first lot and built the first house, the present residence of Dr. T. J. Davis.

In the early day Gravity had two attorneys, Artz and Dennis. Attorney Artz afterward located in Kansas where he entered politics, and at one time was on the governor's staff.

T. O. Wilson, W. D. Burge and S. D. Churchill, are among the pioneers of the town and lent their help to its advancement. The fraternal orders are well represented in Gravity. The first to organize a lodge were the Odd Fellows. The Masons followed in a short time, then the old veterans established a Grand Army of the Republic Post; afterward a Knights of Pythias lodge was organized and last but not least, came the Modern Woodmen of America.

Miles Morris established the first bank, which he conducted for several years. Wishing to retire he sold to the Bedford Bank and it is still owned and operated by the stockholders of that institution. W. E. Crane is president of the Gravity Bank and Charles B. Bailey, cashier. The bank enjoys a substantial patronage. It has a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars; surplus nineteen thousand, three hundred and eighty-three dollars and sixty-nine cents; deposits to the amount of one hundred and sixteen thousand, eight hundred and fourteen dollars and eighty-two cents.



The Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank has been established but a short time, but having some substantial local men, as officers and directors, it has a very satisfactory patronage. L. B. Payne is the president and Claude Thomas, cashier. The capital stock is ten thousand dollars.

Gravity supports more churches than any other town in the county. The Methodist people organized and built a church in 1883, but lately they rebuilt at a cost of five thousand dollars. They have a good building and one of the largest congregations in town. Rev. Palmer is the pastor.

The Christian church was organized at Cottage Grove schoolhouse by John Stouder, George Brookman, D. C. Starkweather and others. W. L. Dunlavey was the pastor there, also the first pastor after the removal to Gravity in 1883. Elder Dunlavey has served nine years as pastor of the church. The membership of the church numbers one hundred and sixty-five. They have a good building and are doing active work, the present pastor being Eber.

The Presbyterian people are not very strong numerically at this time, there being but about fifty members. But they have one of the neatest church buildings in the county. At present they have no regular pastor.

The Baptists have a good church building, although it is one of the oldest ones in the town. They always, or at least until quite recently, have had a good active working church with a membership of about forty, their present pastor being Rev. Hancock.

The Free Methodists have had an organization in Gravity for some time, while they are not strong numerically, numbering only about fifty members. They carry on all of the regular church work. Their pastor is Rev. Ahrens.

The Adventists organized a church in 1893, with forty members. H. Swander, William West and A. F. Hopkins were among the organizers. The present pastor is W. C. Williams.

A school district was organized in 1883 and a two-room building erected at a cost of two thousand dollars. In 1900 a four-room house costing five thousand dollars was built and this building is already too small to accommodate the increased school population, and the board is again called upon to furnish more room. From the county superintendent's annual report we find that there are one hundred and forty-three pupils enrolled in the school with an average attendance of one hundred and two. They have apparatus valued at five hundred dollars and have three hundred and twenty-seven volumes in their library. Last year they paid one thousand, nine hundred and eighty dollars to teachers.

The present mayor of the city is L. B. Payne. Elmer Brown is clerk, Henry Nott, marshal and J. P. Jones, street commissioner. The members of the council are: S. B. Smith, L. T. Reed, J. F. Hanna, L. G. Blakeslee, J. G. Savage and C. E. Ledgerwood.

The assessed valuation of Gravity corporation and the independent school district is four hundred and eighty-five thousand, nine hundred and twenty-eight dollars.

We mentioned earlier in this article the name of the first postmaster. James Moneyham was at one time postmaster. Scott Johnson served in that capacity for a number of years and the present incumbent is W. P. Pierson. There





METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GRAVITY





are three rural mail routes out of Gravity. The carrier on route one is Albert Dugan, on route two, Henry Johnson and on route three, A. O. Shank.

Gravity is the home of the greatest number of fraternal orders of any town in the county, except Bedford. The Masons have a strong organization with an Eastern Star Lodge in connection. The Odd Fellows have perhaps the strongest organization in point of number in the town, the membership being about fifty, with a lodge of Daughters of Rebekah in connection. The Odd Fellows own their lodge room and it is one of the best in the county. The Knights of Pythias probably come second among the lodges in point of members. They own their lodge room and the members are all enthusiastic Knights. There is an organization of Rathbone Sisters in connection.

The Woodmen have a good strong active working camp in Gravity, as they have in nearly every town in the county. They have a uniformed drill team of Foresters, that excites the admiration of all observers, and which adds much to the interest of their work. They have an active sister lodge of Royal Neighbors. More recently there has been organized in the town, a Yeoman Lodge, which has a good membership for the time it has been established.

Last but not least we mention the G. A. R. Post and the Ladies Relief Corps. Quite a number of the heroes of 1861-65 are living in Gravity and vicinity. There is, perhaps, no man so faithful at his lodge meetings, as the old veteran of the civil war. There he meets his old comrades and for the time he lives over again the dark days of the rebellion. This fellowship means much more to him than lodge fellowship does to the man of later generations. He knows it can last but a brief time now, as he sees his comrades fast dropping from the ranks. The Gravity Post holds regular sessions, and the members keep up their past work with the same vim and enthusiasm they displayed while following the flag through Dixie. The ladies of the Relief Corps are what their name implies, and the ladies lack none of the vim of the veterans of the G. A. R., of which their order is a branch.

At the beginning of this chapter are mentioned some of the pioneer business men of the town. Thirty years hence it may interest children of today to see a list of the present line of business and their proprietors. Sam Taylor, one of the first business men is still in business, looks to be good for years yet to come. He conducts one of the three general stores.

J. W. Chitty and Hanna and Stewart are proprietors of the other two. The stores just mentioned carry large and complete stocks of up-to-date goods and the proprietors are men of business ability. They deserve good patronage and get it. G. Poston and Son carry a stock of hardware and also a stock of groceries. There is one exclusive hardware stock, owned until recently by M. C. McMahill, who traded it to parties outside the county. B. F. Chandler and his son F. M., are proprietors of the lumberyard. In addition to a complete line of lumber, they carry a stock of hardware, also paints, oils, lime, cement; in fact everything in the building line. They have also put in a plant for the manufacture of cement building blocks. The firm name is the Chandler Lumber Co.

L. McGregor is proprietor of the only exclusive furniture store. He carries a fine stock of goods and enjoys a good trade. He has an undertaking department in connection. He is well equipped for the business and recently purchased a



fine funeral car. John Jones is proprietor of the hotel. As a rule, traveling salesmen are shy of hotels in small towns, but the hotel at Gravity is an exception. Among the knights of the grip, it has the reputation of being among the best hotels on their route.

Two livery barns find business in Gravity. There are two barber shops, Savage and Clark are the proprietors of one and Richard Johnson, the other. The Clarinda Butter and Egg Company, have a station at Gravity where they buy eggs, poultry and cream. Frank Duning also, has a cream station there.

There are two real estate firms in the town, Lewis, Seymour and Ledgerwood constitute one firm and Menoher and Stover the other.

Elmer Brown is a justice of the peace for the township of Washington, and he is also a notary public. In connection with his other duties he looks after collections and insurance.

J. S. Francis has been editor of the *Gravity Independent* for some time and seems to be keeping the paper up to the high standard attained by his predecessor, Stoddard. There are two restaurants, one conducted by Joseph Wisencop, the other by Ledgerwood.

Gravity at the present time has no resident attorney. Artz and Dennis have been mentioned elsewhere in this article as practicing law here in the earlier years of the town's history, but they both sought other fields long ago. R. T. Burrell practiced here for a time after his admission to the bar, but he finally came to Bedford and now is a partner of Hon. L. T. McCoun.

There are two practicing physicians in Gravity, Dr. O. V. Long and Dr. L. T. Reed. Dr. Long was for several years a partner of Dr. J. T. McColm. Both have a good practice.

Dr. W. L. Dunlavey has been Gravity's dentist, almost since the founding of the town. He has a well equipped office. Keeps up with the times in his profession and has a good patronage.

Dr. T. J. Davis, is the resident veterinary surgeon. Dr. Davis was on the ground when the town was platted and has always had all of the work in his line he cared to do.

## BLOCKTON.

It has been mentioned elsewhere in this work that before the building of the Chicago Great Western railroad there was a lively little town on the east bank of the Platte River in Jefferson township, called Mormontown. It was founded in 1861 by about a dozen families of Mormons, who came here from Fremont county. These disciples of Joseph Smith were not satisfied with their location in this county, so in 1865 they left us, returning to Fremont county. Why they were not pleased here we do not know. It could not have been on account of the surrounding country, as the soil is rich and along the river much good timber is found. It must have been on account of their remoteness from their fellow Mormons. While here, they built two mills, a water mill and a steam mill, but they have long since disappeared and their location is known to but a few of the oldest settlers. Before the Mormons, there were a few settlers in





PUBLIC SCHOOL, BLOCKTON





the neighborhood of Mormontown. The first were Jonathan Cooksey and M. B. and P. J. Wisdom.

Dr. A. White was the first physician to locate in the town. Dr. G. W. Bellus, came later and had an extensive practice until his death a few years ago.

Rev. J. W. Bott is said to have been the first preacher in Mormontown. He was a preacher of the Methodist church. In 1865, about the time the Mormons left, the Methodists of the town and vicinity effected an organization, S. B. Hickenlooper and W. H. Norris have the honor of being the starting members. Rev. Bott mentioned above, was installed as their first pastor. The church was under the Bedford charge until 1870. Among the old time pastors of the church were Revs. Elliott, Heinebaugh, Kern, Lovejoy, Randolph, DeTar and Burleigh. This is probably the strongest organization in the town, numbering about one hundred and there is a large Sunday-school in connection. All departments of the church work are kept up. They have a neat and commodious building, covered with ornamental sheet iron, that adds much to the exterior appearance of the building. Rev. Woods is the present pastor.

The Christian people had an organization a short distance south of Mormontown as early as 1874. After the building of the railroad and Mormontown merged into Blockton, part of this congregation uniting with others, perfected an organization, which has grown until now they have an excellent building, finished in much the same style of the Methodist church. Their building is comparatively new, having been built but seven or eight years. The membership is about the same as that of the Methodist church. This is one of the most enthusiastic and hardworking churches in the county. They have always been fortunate in the selection of pastors, usually selecting students from Drake University, bright active young men, which accounts for their rapid growth and the enthusiasm of the members. Elder Van Horn, was for a time pastor of the church. Their present pastor is Elder Purdy, who is an earnest worker and is doing much good.

The United Brethren have a church in Blockton now, but its organization does not date back so far as the above mentioned churches. Their pastor is Rev. Mitchell.

For years the Baptists have had an organization here, and among them labored for many years the Rev. Willam Golding, who was recently called to his reward at a ripe old age. At present the Baptists have no regular preacher.

For many years Thomas King had a fine flouring mill on the banks of the Platte, and still later a steam mill flourished, but owing to the small amount of wheat raised in this immediate section, the business was not profitable, and at present the town has no mill at all.

The first newspaper published in Blockton, was *The Motor*. This was in 1877 and M. A. Farr was the editor.

Getting down to the time of the advent of the railroad, the name Mormontown was dropped and the town named Blockton in honor of W. T. Block, one of the promoters and principal stockholders of the road. Some of the men of this period who deserve credit for the growth of the town, and the general spirit of progressiveness that marks everything the visitor sees, were P. J. Wisdom, S. B. Hickenlooper, Colonel Babson, W. D. and F. L. Blakemore,



Thomas King, Dr. King, R. L. Golding and many others, whose names we do not recall.

The town now has two good banks, one owned by Wright Brothers, with I. V. Wright, as cashier. The capital stock of the bank is twenty-five thousand dollars and the deposits are one hundred and ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred and thirty dollars.

The second bank is owned and managed by George Hartley, who at one time conducted a mercantile business. The cashier is George Hartley. The capital stock is ten thousand dollars.

There are four good general stores. One owned by J. N. Freeland & Son, another by W. J. W. Townsend, who for many years had a store at Platteville, and later one at Athelstan; another by W. E. Hotaling and the fourth by D. Paxton. These stores compare with any in the county. The only exclusive clothing house is owned by William and Frank Melton.

Jene Campbell and Bert Wolf each are proprietors of an exclusive grocery stock. W. M. Nolan has a combined racket and grocery. B. B. Poor, runs a racket store. There is one hardware store, doing business under the firm name of the Blockton Hardware Company, the proprietors are Bentley and Wells. W. N. Harmison and George Carlson handle hardware and implements. O. F. Langford has a complete stock of furniture and undertaking goods. There are two good stocks of drugs in Blockton, one conducted by Claude Sharp and the other by Charles Duff. One of the largest stocks of lumber in the county is to be found here. The proprietor is F. Schoenman. The newspaper of the town, the "*Blockton News*," was at one time published by H. C. Movers, who later traded with R. S. Bonham for the *Free Press* of Bedford, which he published for several years, but Movers, now resides in Alabama. Bonham published the *News* for a time, but finally sold out to the pioneer in the newspaper business in this county, H. Lupton. Mr. Lupton is still actively working on the paper. Sometime ago, however, feeling the burden of the entire management of the business too much for him, he sold an interest to Ellis Nulph, an active energetic young man and thoroughly acquainted with the mechanical part of the newspaper business. These men have made money in their business and they deserve all they have made. The *News* is ably edited, typographically neat, and always full of local news. It has been an important factor in the building up of the town.

W. D. Waldrip deals in poultry, butter and eggs, which, as in other towns, is growing into a business of much importance. There are three restaurants in the town and all appear to do a fair business. One is run by Hall Mackey, another by a Mr. Jackson and the third by a Mr. Roberts. Blockton has three hotels, one more than Bedford. Ed Swartz is proprietor of one, Ura Kline is landlord of another, William Ostrander has lately opened a third hotel.

Colonel Driver and Wildman Brothers, are proprietors of the two livery barns. There are two blacksmith shops, one operated by Simons and Brown, the other by Ed. Chancy. Nye and Hibbs, are partners in the contracting and building business. A. S. Kennedy also is a contractor and builder. The two dray lines are handled by Cash West, and Edgar Thompson. There are two millinery stocks in the town. Mrs. Ball is proprietor of one and Mrs.

Mackey of the other. Dr. Thomas does the dental work for the community, while Dr. King, Dr. Malloy and Dr. Terrell, attend to the other physical ailments of the people. R. D. Abarr is the resident veterinary surgeon.

Milton O'Neal runs the feed store and M. R. Chandler is a hay and grain shipper. Keenan Brothers, J. V. Shay, R. L. Loutzenhizer and Campbell and Wildman ship stock. Wolf and Meton have the only real estate business of the town. M. C. King has the only exclusive stock of jewelry. He also does repairing. Scott Lee runs a harness shop and does general repair work. Sid Severn and Crew have the meat markets. Clark Bowman has established quite a little industry in the manufacture of cement blocks. The postmaster of Blockton is N. O. Hickenlooper and there are three rural routes out of the town. No. 1, Jene King, carrier; No. 2, Bert Seton, carrier; and No. 3, Will Livingston, carrier.

The city officers: Mayor, H. L. Carr; marshall, Allie Albaugh; treasurer, M. Wright.

Members of the city council are: J. N. Freeland, John Shay, Clark Bowman, Dick Loutzenhizer and Will Hotaling.

The population of Blockton is estimated at about one thousand. The last assessment rates the property of Blockton and school district at four hundred and sixty thousand, seven hundred and forty-eight dollars.

Blockton has a six-room school building erected about fifteen years ago, at a cost of about six thousand dollars. There are one hundred and eighty-four pupils enrolled in the schools with an average attendance of one hundred and seventy. The secretary gives the value of the school apparatus at three hundred and fifty dollars. Their school library contains two hundred and fifty volumes. Six teachers are employed and they were paid last year two thousand, six hundred and twenty-one dollars.

### CLEARFIELD.

With the building of the H. and S. Railroad, three towns came into existence, Clearfield, Sharps and Gravity. New Market is practically in the same list, as it was built about the same time, but New Market was really started by the people of old nearby towns, moving over to the railroad.

Clearfield was platted in 1881 and incorporated in 1882. F. Brice was agent for the town company. T. C. Mann was the first mayor and F. Brice the second. Mr. Brice enjoys the distinction of having been justice of the peace in Clearfield eighteen years.

The school district was organized in 1882, with F. Brice president of the board. Cort Evans and Frank Spurrier were on the board. The first school building had four rooms and cost two thousand, two hundred dollars.

Among the early merchants were Grant McPherrin, R. S. Spurrier, Carson and Vaughn.

Benjamin Jacobs was the first postmaster. Hartman Brothers were among the early business men and Cort Evans kept the first hotel. The town had a newspaper almost from the beginning, the Clearfield *Enterprise* being founded in February, 1882. The paper has been owned at different times by Spurrier,



Lupton, Clark, Tully, Andrews, Constant, Miller and Pollock, Waring and Smith. L. H. Andrews is the present editor and proprietor. The paper is well edited and newsy and receives liberal patronage.

Although Clearfield has not suffered so severely from fires as some of its sister towns of the county, it has a volunteer fire company. Wells are dug at convenient intervals in the business quarter, and the city owns a good hand engine, hooks, ladders and buckets and other apparatus necessary.

The banking business is divided between the Clearfield bank and the Taylor County bank, both do a good business. The Clearfield bank has Grant McPherin for its president. Grant was one of the pioneer business men of Clearfield, and is a man who enjoys the confidence of the community, so when he concluded to leave the mercantile field and go into the banking business, his old patrons naturally followed him. The bank has capital and surplus to the amount of forty-five thousand dollars; to show the steady growth of deposits, we copy the following from one of the bank statements: Deposits 1903, fifty-four thousand dollars; in 1908, one hundred and thirty-seven thousand dollars; and in 1909, one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. C. C. Carlton is the cashier.

The Taylor County bank enjoys a good patronage and is in thrifty condition. The capital stock is ten thousand dollars. We were unable to get information regarding the deposits. Myron M. Jenkins is president of the bank and P. H. Bestor cashier.

The town has but one lumber yard but it is a good one and supplies a large territory with their building material.

There are two fine stocks of hardware, one owned by Mann and Rood, known as the Clearfield Hardware Company, the other by Hartman Brothers. C. B. Parslow and D. D. Baird each carry a fine line of clothing. There are three general stores. Harry Spurrier, Wallon and Oldaker and James Young.

The one exclusive line of groceries is presided over by Ray Morey. There are two fully equipped drug stores. The Stephenson Drug Company and the Clearfield Drug Company, conducted by J. M. Stephenson.

There are two complete stocks of furniture, one owned by A. J. Crew and son, the other by W. H. Vaughn. George Parkins and W. M. Long each run restaurants. There are two real estate firms, Wilbur M. Long and Tope & Lyddon.

Mrs J. P. Corey and Mrs. I. U. Dakin each conducts a millinery establishment.

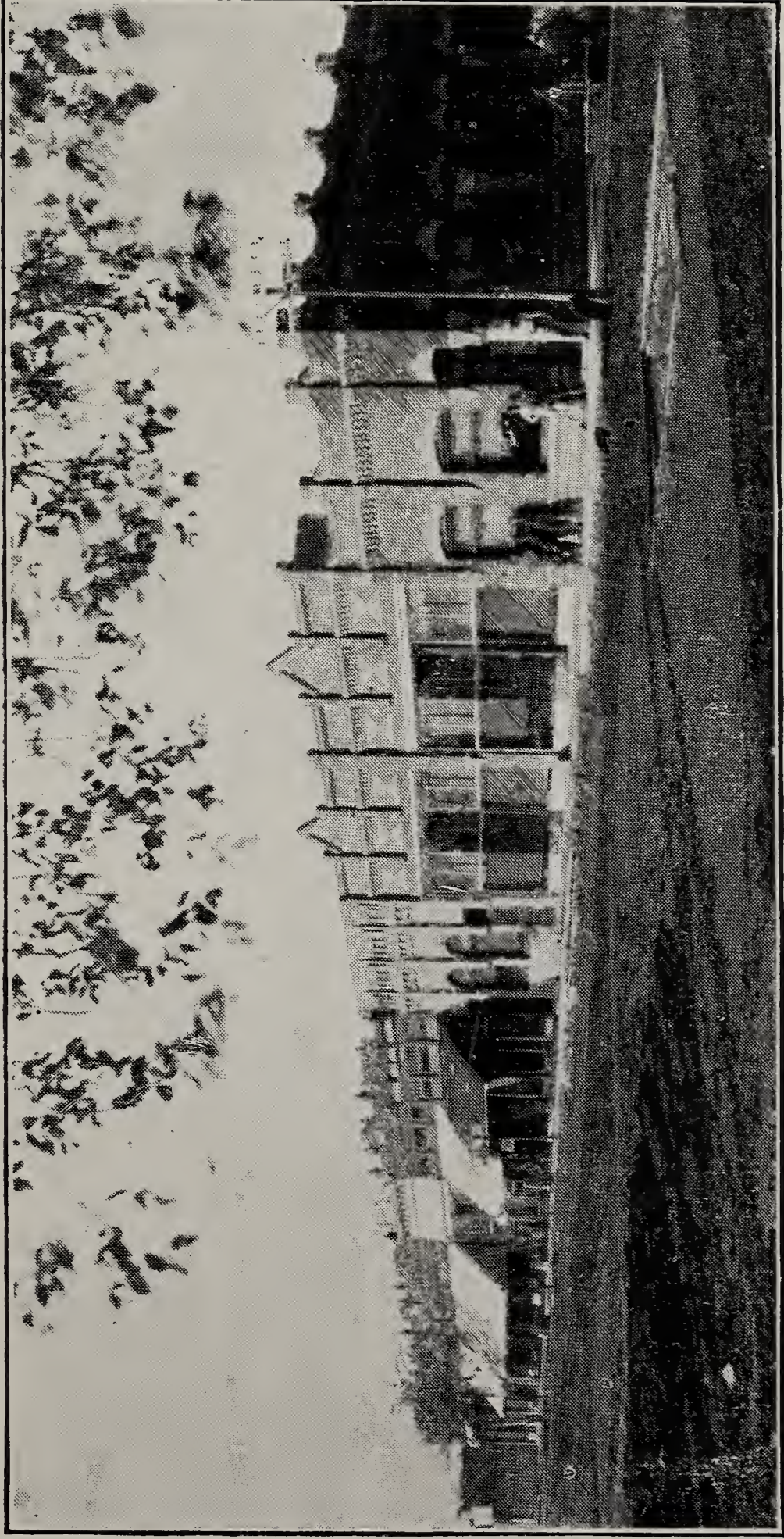
At the present time there are three physicians, Dr. J. P. Maxwell, Dr. H. E. McCall and Dr. J. W. Brown. Two dentists divide the patronage in their line of work, Dr. F. P. Corey and Dr. C. E. Swan.

The town has two good hotels, better than is usually found in much larger towns. The Evans House, managed by John Evans, and the Commercial House, conducted by Mrs. B. F. Beadle.

Reagan and Dutton, each run livery barns. J. D. Barrans is a horse dealer on a large scale. There are three blacksmiths in the town, J. K. Parschall, Andy Nelson and Charles Wirth.

There are two barber shops, one operated by Grant and Warfle, the other by Wheeler and Goodman. Harvey and Henderson run a second hand store.





STREET SCENE IN CLEARFIELD





Dora Beemer deals in musical instruments and Dora Beemer and son handle farm machinery. H. J. Buckner has the exclusive harness business of town, and James Crew owns and runs the only meat market the town has at present.

The Clearfield Elevator is operated by R. S. Spurrier and Hartman Brothers. The Clearfield Creamery has for some time done a big business. They have a large territory and the past year did a one hundred thousand dollar business. Ex-supervisor Joe Doubet is one of the promoters of the creamery, and he has worked hard to make it the success that it is.

H. T. Swope is the present postmaster and seems to satisfy the patrons of the office. There are two rural routes out of Clearfield. C. C. Moore is the carrier on route one and G. F. McLowery the carrier on route two. R. M. Wilson is the railroad company's agent at the Clearfield station.

The Standard Oil Company have a station at Clearfield with a tank capacity of twenty thousand gallons. Robinson and Fullerton conduct a poultry and egg business and also handle seeds. Their poultry and egg business for 1908 was seventeen thousand, two hundred and forty-nine dollars and eighty-five cents.

Clearfield has one of the finest sale pavillions in this section of the state. It was built by a company of citizens of the town and vicinity and is known as the Sale Pavillion Company. Grant McPherrin is the president of the company and M. M. Jenkins secretary.

Clearfield has a photograph gallery owned by J. M. Rinard. H. Plummer is the resident attorney for the town and vicinity and enjoys a good practice. Harvey and Henderson are the ice dealers of the town and also handle poultry.

Clearfield people have always taken great pride in their schools, and have elected officers from year to year who have labored to bring their schools up to a still higher standard of efficiency. During the superintendency of H. S. Ash, the writer of this was quite well acquainted with the schools, and considered them among the best he had ever seen, and so far as we can learn, the same conditions prevail. The first building has been mentioned. It soon proved too small and additions were attached, and in time this enlarged building was inadequate, and four or five years ago the question of a new building was brought up and all agreed they needed a new building and needed it badly, but the question of location excited much discussion. The board decided on a location a little east of the old school building on the south side of the street. Patrons of the school living north of the railroad asked that the school be located on the north side. The school board appealed to the county superintendent, who, after hearing the arguments, selected a site west of the old building, about eighty rods or more and on the north side of the road, which location was about the center of the district. The case was then appealed to the state superintendent, who with some minor suggestions affirmed the decision of the county superintendent. The matter was then brought into the court by the advocates of the other sites and the lower court affirmed the decision of the county superintendent. The case was appealed to the supreme court, and the decision of the lower court reversed, which also set aside the decision of both the state and county superintendents. The opinion rendered in the case stated that neither



the county superintendent nor the state superintendent had any jurisdiction in the matter of locating school houses, such power being vested in the board alone.

After this decision the board proceeded to make preparations for building. Instead of the site originally selected by them, they chose a site directly south of the old building. The old grounds were retained, and the street between the two tracts was vacated, so that the district has very fine play grounds. In 1898, the new building was built at a cost of twenty thousand dollars. It is built of pressed brick, has eleven rooms, and is a strictly up-to-date modern building in every respect. The high-school course of study provides for the full four years work and the school is on the accredited list. Six teachers are employed and last year there was an enrollment of two hundred and thirty-four. The last report shows that the superintendent was paid eight hundred and fifty-five dollars and the total amount paid teachers was three thousand, three hundred and seventy-five dollars. The apparatus in the school is valued at two hundred dollars and the library contains three hundred and eighty volumes.

The present postmaster is H. T. Swope, who has served the patrons of the office faithfully for several years. There are three rural mail routes out of Clearfield, which supply daily mail to the residents of the surrounding territory.

The town has one of the neatest opera houses in the county. It has a good stage, with all of the appurtenances in the way of scenery, and it is well seated and well lighted. The citizens take sufficient interest in outdoor sports to have a fine ball park with a large amphitheatre in connection.

Clearfield has four strong church organizations: The Methodist Episcopal church, Rev. Carl Brown, pastor; the United Presbyterian, Rev. J. M. Weingart, pastor; the Christian church, Elder S. H. Reynolds, pastor. There is a Baptist church with a fair membership but at present they have no regular pastor. The Methodist Episcopal, United Presbyterian and Christian organizations each have excellent buildings all practically new and costing from five thousand to eight thousand dollars each. Each congregation numbers two hundred or more.

The history of the town would not be complete without, at least a brief mention of the civic societies. The Ed. Otis Post, G. A. R., has a membership of thirty; P. C., R. Henderson; Adjutant, C. W. B. Yaryan. Woman's Relief Corps, No. 343; president, Mrs. T. H. Miller; secretary, Etta Stevenson. Rosewood Camp, No. 3503, Modern Woodmen of America, has a large membership; James Crew is V. C., and L. M. Hadden, clerk. The Royal Neighbors have a good membership and meet regularly in the Woodmen hall twice each month. Mrs. Marth Beatty is the oracle and Mrs. Etta Stevinson, recorder. Clearfield Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, is strong in membership; L. E. Hartman is the N. G. and L. A. Tope, secretary. Cypress Rebekah Lodge, No. 549, I. O. O. F., is in thrifty condition; N. G., Mrs. Anna Beadle; secretary, Mrs. Martha Beatty. Noble Lodge, No. 458, A. F. & A. M., meets regularly and has a good membership; W. M., C. J. Harvey; secretary, L. A. Tope.

The assessed valuation of Clearfield corporation is three hundred and ninety-one thousand, two hundred and forty-eight dollars and of Clearfield Independent one hundred and thirty-one thousand, nine hundred and thirty-six dollars.

Clearfield is situated in one of the richest sections of the county. The land is productive and there are many wealthy farmers and stock raisers in the vicinity. The shipments in carload lots the past year as shown by the railroad company's report, were: grain, eighty-three cars; horses, seventeen cars; cattle, eighty-one cars; hogs, one hundred and seven cars; sheep, one car; butter, fourteen cars.

The present city officers and members of the council are: Mayor, J. R. Plummer; clerk, C. C. Carlton; members of council: R. E. Busby, J. D. Barrans, Dr. J. T. Maxwell, M. M. Jenkins, J. S. Walton and C. B. Parslow.

### ATHELSTAN.

Athelstan is located in Jefferson township, the state line and dates its existence from the building of the Chicago Great Western Railroad. This railroad is one of the best in the state, hence Athelstan furnishes exceptional shipping facilities for farmers of the vicinity. While the town is in a very productive territory, its trade is restricted owing to the close proximity of Blockton on the Iowa side, which is only five miles away, while Sheridan in Missouri, is almost as close. The population of the town as shown by the last census was one hundred and fifty-seven, but it is thought to be near two hundred now. While there is but a small number of people there, most lines of business are well represented.

D. L. Fluke and W. O. Markee, each conduct a general mercantile business and carry large stocks. J. S. Parker has the only exclusive grocery store. J. E. Freemeyer, handles hardware and farm machinery. Clyde Hayes is proprietor of the harness shop. The restaurant business is in the hands of George Barber and Ray Barber is proprietor of the hotel. The town has always had a livery barn and D. J. Hayes is the present proprietor. S. E. Squires is the grain buyer and Adams Brothers and S. O. Campbell are the local stock buyers. The blacksmith work of the town and vicinity is done by F. L. Kemery. E. B. Bowens is the resident carpenter. I. N. Booker is the present postmaster. A. D. Nye was station agent at Athelstan from the building of the railroad, until his election to the office of county treasurer a year ago. Athelstan has two churches, the Baptist and Holiness, each has about one hundred members.

The present mayor of the town is H. M. Ramsey. The assessed valuation of Athelstan corporation and school district is one hundred and fourteen thousand, seven hundred and seventy-two dollars. The number of pupils enrolled in the school is sixty-six, with an average attendance of fifty-one. The building has two rooms and is valued at two hundred dollars. The apparatus in the school is valued at eighty-five dollars and the secretary reports sixty-nine volumes in the library. The teachers for last year were paid seven hundred and one dollars and seventy-five cents.

### LENOX.

In 1871 after the completion of the Creston Branch of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Road, the town was platted, but it was not until February, 1872,



that actual settlement began. N. J. Allen, A. S. Beymer, and G. L. Brooks, were the first residents and others soon followed. It seems that at first the town was platted on the east side of the railroad. For some reason the site was re-surveyed and replatted and this necessitated the removal of some buildings to the west side. This retarded the town the first year, but after that the growth has been remarkable.

They built the first schoolhouse in 1874, when the enrolled pupils numbered fifteen and in 1880 the number had increased to two hundred and thirteen. Lenox is in what was No. 3 school district of Platte township and the independent district was organized in 1873, and as before mentioned they built in 1874. The schoolhouse was a two-room frame structure, which was ample for the needs of the district for many years. A school was taught in the summer of 1874 by a Mr. Cole, with about twenty-five pupils. The regular term beginning in September, 1874, was taught by G. W. Howe and he had about sixty-two pupils enrolled. The first school board under the new organization was: Hon. N. S. Hornady, L. B. Wilson, H. S. Woods, J. T. Wherry, W. A. Scott and John Baxter. The school population increased so rapidly that in 1881, bonds were voted for the erection of a new brick building which was ready for use in September, 1882. This is the building now in use, with an addition built on a few years ago. It is a good building and is well equipped but the town has about outgrown it again, so it is likely a new building will be asked for in the near future.

The schools are a source of much pride to the town and this pride is pardonable as the work done will compare favorably with any school in the state. They have the regular four year high-school course, and the school is on the accredited list, so that graduates may enter the state university and receive full credit for work done in the Lenox school.

The last report gives the enrollment at three hundred and ten and the average attendance two hundred and fifty. The building is valued at fourteen thousand, five hundred dollars; apparatus at five hundred dollars. The library contains three hundred and fifty volumes. Besides the superintendent, they have eight assistants. They paid their corps of teachers last year four thousand, one hundred and forty dollars.

Lenox is the second town in the point of population, which is about one thousand, five hundred. This has given Lenox political prestige and the town has been represented by several men in county and state politics. Hon. John Madden was elected to the legislature in 1875 and the Hon. N. S. Hornady in 1879. In 1876, G. L. Brooks was the eighth district delegate to the republican convention at Cincinnati, that nominated Hayes. Hon. George Van Houten later received the republican nomination for lieutenant governor with Wheeler and although defeated, ran considerably ahead of the ticket. This was the year that Horace Boies led the democratic ticket to victory. Mr. Van Houten was elected to the legislature in 1895, and has since held important appointive offices. T. H. Hull, a former county clerk, was elected from Lenox in 1882. A. C. Brice was elected county treasurer in 1889; J. H. Humphrey, sheriff in 1903; E. E. Kuhn the present county superintendent elected in 1906; J. B. Dunn county attorney, elected 1902 and the present state senator of the Adams-Taylor district,





STREET IN LENOX, IOWA



PUBLIC SCHOOL, LENOX





is Dr. T. W. Bennett of Lenox. A. M. Blackstone, surveyor in the early seventies was also a Lenox man. Among the first business men of the town were A. S. Beymer, G. L. Brooks and N. J. Allen.

A copy of the *Lenox Time Table* of July 4, 1876, gives the following list of business men: F. S. Winkley, painter; J. H. Humphrey, livery barn; H. B. Hansen, boots and shoes; Morrell and Anderson, grocery and restaurant; M. M. Bechtell, Lenox Mills; Osborn and Brooks, hardware; Tyler & Howell, real estate; Harlan and Saunders, hardware; A. C. Woodard, meat market; G. E. Norwood, implements; J. W. Maher, real estate; A. C. Brice & Co., undertakers; Humphrey & Co., druggists; Allen, Spear and Lane, dry goods and implements and John Madden, general merchandise.

The town has had a newspaper almost from the first. H. Lupton, now one of the proprietors of the *Blockton News*, was one of the founders of the *Lenox Time Table*, which paper has had a continuous existence since. It has changed hands several times, Hon. George Van Houten being its publisher for a time. Crosson & Smith published it for a little more than a year, Lupton followed and he sold to Cochran, who in turn sold it to other parties. The paper is now owned and published by W. J. Clark. The town has at various times had two papers. One Cole several years ago started a second paper called the *New Era*. Cole did not stay long but sold out and finally the paper was discontinued. There is a second now which has been published for some years. Frank McCoy was at one time its editor. Glenn Willits also published it awhile, Walter Van Houten succeeded Willits as owner of the paper and he in turn sold to J. E. Rogers, who is the present proprietor. At one time a paper was started which bore the name of the *Lenox Gleaner*.

Lenox has nearly every line of business that is to be found in towns much larger. The merchants carry fine lines as they cater to a trade that will have the best. In volume of business transacted each year Lenox probably equals any town in the county. For the benefit of future generations, we give a list of the lines of business to be found in the town with the men engaged in each.

Ed. Madden, exclusive dry goods; R. L. Ball, groceries and queensware; George Walters, meat market; N. C. Davidson, meat market; G. L. Goodale, jeweler and optician; William Madden, general merchandise; Copeland Brothers, drug store; Dunbar Clothing company, clothing; Maharry Brothers, general merchandise; H. A. Childs, drugs; Humphrey & Carlton, groceries, queensware; O. D. Tyler, drugs; Jesse Draper, groceries and queensware; A. McKenzie, furniture and hardware; Paymal & Sealey, general merchandise; F. Reimer, meat market; E. Wright, jeweler and optician; N. A. Anderson, boots and shoes; Lee Crosby, restaurant and bakery; Mr. Ricker, harness; Cheese & Hall, general merchandise; Mrs. J. J. Carey, millinery; Minnie Wintermute, millinery; Saunders & Birdnell, restaurant; Barney Alderson, clothing; Cless Brothers, hardware; Killion & Son, clothing; Martin & Martin, hardware, furniture and undertaking; Charles Arnold, restaurant; Weingarh & Clayton, restaurant; John R. Giles, feed store; B. F. Ginn, harness; S. E. Wainright, garage; William Readhead, veterinary surgeon; C. H. Copeland, produce; F. Walker, livery; Harry Abernathy, tailor; F. M. McEniry, coal dealer; A. E. Pantry, blacksmith; Clark Armstrong, livery; Thompson & Son, roller mills; R. M. McIntyre,



blacksmith; Gus Titze, carpenter; Schmidt Brothers, carpenters; Al. Smith, blacksmith; Eclipse Lumber company; S. E. Wainright, lumber and grain; William Hewitt, grain; John Madden, William Mullen, M. Saunders, N. C. Davidson, stock buyers; T. W. Bennett, J. P. Scroggs, M. F. Brown, S. M. Hamilton, A. D. Cochran, physicians and surgeons; H. Ellis, Dr. Browning, W. J. Dey Ermand, dentists; Ernest Richards, George Lyddon, John Connor, Phil Ridgeway, Gene Pullman, real estate; M. F. McEniry, S. B. Overmire, T. F. Armstrong, Ben Evans, insurance.

It is difficult to get at a complete list of the business men of a town, but we think the above list about covers the field.

The churches of Lenox are: the Catholic, Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, United Presbyterian and Christian. Among the various old time preachers who ministered to the different organizations of Lenox were: Rev. U. P. Golliday and Rev. J. D. DeTar, Methodists; Rev. N. V. Morrow, Presbyterian; Rev. A. B. DeLong, Presbyterian; and Rev. J. W. Johnson, United Presbyterian

The strongest Catholic organization in the county is located at Lenox. They built their first church in 1875. The early members and organizers were: Eugene Paymal, T. F. Maloney, T. F. Meagher, John Nagle, Pat. Ryan and Richard Finn. It was soon found that the first church was too small to accommodate the growing membership, so in 1881, a large and substantial building was erected. This building has since been remodeled to some extent, and the interior handsomely decorated. In 1889, a parsonage was built adjoining the church. Father Phelan was the first resident pastor and was a man of superior ability. He was a man of affairs, and the Lenox church undoubtedly owes much to him. Since his work at Lenox, Father Phelan has risen to prominence in the church and has held some very important positions.

Other pastors have been: Father Bede, Father John Staler, Father John Noonan and Father Glenn. Father Feeley is the present pastor. The approximate value of the church building is four thousand dollars and the parsonage three thousand dollars. About sixty families are included in the membership.

The Presbyterian church of Lenox was organized in 1876 with the following members: James R. Hewitt, Rebecca Hewitt, Hattie Osborn, John Pugh, James Montgomery, N. J. Hornady, James B. Dunbar, John Kepner, Francis Kepner and S. B. Overmyer. Immediately upon the organization of the church a building for worship was put in process of erection and was completed the same year. It was a frame building and cost about two thousand, two hundred dollars. It was dedicated in the fall of 1877, by Rev. Bardwell, assisted by Rev. Roberts of St. Joseph, Missouri. The church prospered and while the membership has never been large, active work is carried on. Rev. W. H. Isley, Rev. N. V. Morrow and Rev. A. B. DeLong, were some of the early pastors.

The United Presbyterian church is among the strongest organizations in Lenox. It was organized in 1874. Among the original members were: Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Richards, Mrs. Belle Roberts, Ellen Bernard, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. French, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Lunn, Mrs. Appleby, Louis Appleby, J. R. Dunlap and Mr. and Mrs. William Lafferty. In 1879 a two thousand, five hundred dollar frame building was erected and was dedicated by Rev. J. B. McMichael of Monmouth college. The church has been prosperous from the start. A large

membership has been built up and every department of church work is carried on actively and earnestly.

Rev. W. McKendrie Campbell, delivered the first Methodist sermon in Lenox in the summer of 1873. He preached in the depot. Rev. H. Avery continued the appointment until 1874, when Rev. U. P. Golliday was sent to Lenox. For awhile services were held in the new schoolhouse when the real organization was effected, but it was not until 1881 that a building was erected. The congregation is large and all of the various lines of church work are carried on. Some of the organizers were: E. L. Osborn, G. L. Brooks, Mrs. L. P. Brooks, the Mercer family, R. M. Day and the Wherry family.

The Christian church of Lenox was organized in 1890 and built in 1891. Some of the original members are: Mrs. J. M. Dunbar, Mrs. Mary Baker, Mrs. Phil Godwyn, Iowa Mullen and J. N. Lemon. The building has been remodeled and the entire cost is about four thousand dollars. The present membership is about one hundred and fifty. Elder I. H. Fuller is the pastor.

The Masons and Odd Fellows were the first civic societies to organize in Lenox. The I. O. O. F. was organized in 1880 and the charter members were: George Van Houten, G. W. Howe, C. N. Thompson, H. Warriner, James W. Jones, H. P. Randall, B. F. Hoke and G. A. Deaver.

The Masonic lodge was organized in 1874. The charter members were: A. S. Beymer, George Van Houten, G. W. Horn, Joseph Brown, A. M. Allen, G. L. Allen, H. Cade, J. C. Lucas, James W. Jones, N. S. Hornady and A. L. Duncan.

The Knights of Pythias lodge was instituted in the early nineties and they have a good strong society.

The Modern Woodmen also have a camp at Lenox.

Most of these organizations have a ladies' auxiliary society in connection.

While giving the different lines of business in Lenox, the statement of the banks was overlooked so we give it now.

The First National Bank opened for business in 1900. L. B. Wilson is president; J. H. Bennison, vice-president and W. S. Bennison, cashier. The directors are S. Wainwright, T. W. Bennett, John Nattress and J. P. Scroggs.

The capital stock is thirty thousand dollars. Surplus, twelve thousand dollars and deposits two hundred and two thousand, two hundred and thirty-eight dollars and sixty cents.

The Citizens' State Bank has for its president, S. L. Caldwell; vice-president, O. D. Tyler; cashier, Frank Wilkin; and assistant cashier, Fred A. Childs.

The capital stock is thirty-five thousand dollars. Undivided profits ten thousand, two hundred and five dollars and seventy-nine cents; deposits two hundred and sixty-one thousand, one hundred and twenty-six dollars and forty-one cents.

The assessed valuation of Lenox corporation and school district is eight hundred and seventy-two thousand, one hundred dollars.

The present city officers are:

William Hewett, mayor; John Madden, Jr., clerk; Elsworth Wright, treasurer; Matt Simmer, marshal and street commissioner; Ira Hall, Fred Riemer, Joseph Schmidt and William Custer, members of council.



## CONWAY.

The town of Conway is situated on the Creston branch of the Burlington railroad about eight miles northeast of Bedford. Like Lenox it was laid out by the railroad company, in 1872, while the road was being built. For some reason the town was not incorporated until 1878.

The first city officers were: mayor, O. J. Erff; marshal, Alex Pitman; clerk, A. C. Shoemaker. The members of the council were: J. S. Butts, Tom Daniels, A. A. DeLong, J. G. Bowen and J. H. Jolly.

In the early days Conway had a good mill that did a prosperous business but it was burned. Another was built which was finally moved elsewhere. A small mill grinding meal and feed has been in operation several years until recently when it too went the way of the first. It was burned. For many years Conway had the finest and largest grain elevator on the Burlington railroad. It was owned for years by Jerry Wilson. At his death it was sold and has since been destroyed by fire. Conway, before the building of the Keokuk & Western Railroad had a large territory, but the towns of Clearfield, Sharps and Gravity have greatly reduced the field, but still, owing to the enterprise of its business men, it is a good trading point and every line of business is well represented.

There are three general stores, run by Burge Brothers, J. W. Scott and C. V. French, respectively.

There is but one exclusive grocery and it is run by O. E. Smith. The one drug store is conducted by Clint Powell. W. L. Morrison is proprietor of the only hardware and William O. Grady handles the furniture business. The Eclipse Lumber Company has a yard at Conway, and carry a large stock. They also handle all other lines of building material. They are the coal dealers of the town also.

There are two livery barns, Dr. A. T. West is the proprietor of one and Verne Myers, the other.

David Smith is proprietor of the restaurant, which does the hotel business of the town, since the closing of the hotel. Pat Phelan, the veteran stock buyer, is still in the business. Miller & Son until quite recently, had a big business in imported horses. They are out of business and James Anderson & Sons are in the horse business in the old Miller barn.

There are two banks in Conway. The Farmers, J. R. Cooper, president; Fred C. Cooper, cashier. The individual responsibility of the bank is one hundred thousand dollars. The Conway Savings bank is the old Nelson bank, founded by N. P. Nelson. Oliver Anderson is president and W. A. Conway, cashier. The bank has a capital of twenty thousand dollars.

There are three doctors in the town: Dr. T. B. Keplinger, Dr. R. W. Soper and Dr. A. T. West.

With the founding of the town came the churches. There have been four, but only three are in active operation at present. It might be said that only two are actively at work, the Methodist and the Presbyterian. Elder William Cobb organized the Christian church and for many years it flourished, but the moving away of many active workers made it impossible to keep up their work so no regular services are held. The Presbyterian and Methodist churches have a fair



VIEW IN CONWAY, IOWA





membership, own their buildings and have regular services. The Baptist church was organized by Rev. William Golding, who preached to them for several years. They have no regular services now.

The assessed value of Conway and school district is three hundred and ten thousand, two hundred and forty-four dollars. Conway has a four room school with an enrollment of eighty-nine and an average daily attendance of fifty-nine. Their building is valued at three thousand dollars and the apparatus at one hundred dollars. Their library contains one hundred volumes. Last year they paid their teachers one thousand two hundred and seventy-five dollars.

The Masons, Odd Fellows, G. A. R. and Woodmen have lodges. The Masons and Odd Fellows are strong and own their own halls. The Masonic lodge was instituted in 1875 by Simeon Wright, the charter members were Simeon Wright, Josiah Litteer, H. M. Wilson, J. P. Wright, H. B. Liggett, H. Shoemaker, Samuel Yestman, Sidney Severns, Seth Robinson and William Harriott.

The Odd Fellows have a membership of sixty-two, one of the strongest in the county.

### SHARPSBURG.

This thriving little town is located on the Keokuk and Wyoming Railroad, two and one half miles west of the Conway crossing. The location is ideal and the surrounding territory is one of the finest agricultural sections of the county. Although it doesn't rank very high in population, its citizens are live ones and have had their town incorporated, built a two room school building on modern plans and in many other ways, have displayed their public spirit. For some months they have had a newspaper, which sparkles with local news and booms the town every issue.

Being in the midst of a rich farming community, the town enjoys a good business in staple lines. There are two up-to-date general stores, carrying large stocks. One is owned and managed by J. O. Gardner, the other by W. A. Bates. Clyde Miller carries a complete hardware stock and also handles implements. The drug store, until recently, was owned by Dr. Jessup, but the doctor is now gone and Jesse Underwood is the proprietor of the stock of drugs. W. I. Colvin deals in racket goods.

William Gerlach is proprietor of the lumber yard. He carries a large stock and does a fine business.

Ed. Phelan is the stock buyer of the place. Ritchey brothers are proprietors of the livery barn. They have good equipment and do a satisfactory business.

The Sharpsburg Bank is an institution of much convenience to the citizens of that vicinity.

J. R. Cooper is the president and B. F. Wilson, cashier. The individual responsibility is given as one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, and the deposits equal that of banks in many of the larger towns.

Ten years ago, the school district, No. 2, Marshall Township, in which is the town of Sharpsburg asked to be set off independent as their increased school population rendered it necessary to provide for more room than the old school house furnished. They succeeded in their efforts and after the independent or-



ganization had been effected, steps were taken which led to the erection of a two-room building, built on plans furnished by an architect who makes a specialty of school architecture.

The last report gives the enrollment in the school at fifty-nine, with an average attendance of thirty-eight. The building is valued at fifteen hundred dollars and the school apparatus at sixty dollars. They have forty volumes in the school library. Last year they paid their two teachers eight hundred and ten dollars.

The assessed valuation of the corporation and district is two hundred and twenty-six thousand, seven hundred and sixty dollars.

### BEDFORD.

The township of Bedford embraces the city and independent school district of Bedford, hence its history is practically a part of the history of the town. How the territory was organized into a township has been explained elsewhere. The city of Bedford was located in March, 1852, by a board of commissioners appointed for that purpose by the state legislature. The first house was built by O. W. Fenno and the second by Edwin Houck. In 1854 the business of the town was not extensive. E. Houck was in business and M. N. Thornton and S. A. Cadle under the firm name of Thornton & Cadle.

A Mr. King, of Savannah, Missouri, had a stock of goods in Bedford also. O. W. Fenno mentioned above conducted hotel. In 1852 the first mill was built in the vicinity. It was near the bridge, on East Main street, known now as the Mohler bridge. Madison Guess and John Scott were the proprietors. In 1857 Stephen H. Packer bought Guess's interest, and in 1863 L. Mohler came into possession of the mill, and put in new machinery for grinding wheat. Mr. Mohler did a prosperous business for many years. It has been mentioned elsewhere that the first sale of lots took place July 4, 1852. The first building was on the corner of Main and Water streets, where Frank Dunning's new bank building now stands. It was a double log house. E. Houck built the second house on the opposite side of the street. For many years Bedford had to struggle to hold the county seat. Four different efforts were made to remove it to Lexington, but all of them failed.

The first school in Bedford was held in a small frame building that stood on the lots now occupied by the residence of J. L. Heasley. It was built for a residence by J. F. Engles but was sold to the district for school purposes. The first teacher was Darwin E. Jones. He taught in 1856-7. Later he was county treasurer and recorder. About this time Jacob Lewis taught "singing school" in the school building. Another gentleman who taught vocal music to the youth of the town in the first schoolhouse was Major A. B. Vansickle, who is still living and is quite active for one of his age. Judge Hall, who afterward became a leading lawyer in the town, succeeded Mr. Jones as teacher in the Bedford schools. The next teacher was John Saulsbury, a man of superior education and exalted character. He enlisted at the breaking out of the Civil war, and was among the number, that never returned. Mrs. Charles Cope, who still lives on West Main street, was his widow.

In 1864 the old stone schoolhouse was built. It was a four room structure, and was located just a few feet from the northwest corner of the present old school





VIEW OF BEDFORD



BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL





building. Soon needing more room, a frame addition was built on the north, which in a short time became crowded and bonds for a new building were voted in 1876. In 1877 the building was erected, at a cost of about twenty thousand dollars and after thirty-two years of usage it is still one of the best buildings in this section. Three years ago, a splendid, modern high school building was erected on the northwest corner of the school grounds, and the two buildings meet the requirements of the district for the present. The buildings are valued at forty thousand dollars. The apparatus at four hundred and seventy-five dollars. The library contains three hundred and seventy-five volumes.

The superintendent of schools is paid twelve hundred dollars per annum. There are sixteen assistants whose average salary is fifty-five dollars per month. Total amount paid teachers last year was nine thousand, one hundred and twenty-nine dollars.

The total enrollment last year was five hundred and forty-two.

The Bedford schools carry out a thirteen year course. The high school has the full year course and is on the accredited list of high schools. The schools are a source of much pride to the citizens of Bedford, and they have always cheerfully responded to calls for money to increase the efficiency of the school work.

Bedford has seven church organizations, the First M. E. and the African M. E., Presbyterian, Christian, First Baptist and African Baptist.

#### M. E. CHURCH.

The First M. E. church is one of the strongest, numerically, in the town, having a membership of about four hundred and twenty-five, and it is also one of the most active in all line of church work. It was organized by Rev. Isaac Kelley. The original members were: W. M. P. Long, E. J. Long, S. J. Hall, Hannah Long, Anna Johnston, Daniel Martin, Sarah J. Underwood, Mrs. E. Martin, D. M. Greeson and Jesse Herbert and wife. Some of the early pastors were: Rev. Isaac Kelley, Rev. William Hayes, Rev. J. P. Evans, Rev. W. J. Beck, Rev. George Clammar, Rev. C. W. Blodgett, Rev. L. M. Walters, Rev. W. D. Bennett, Rev. Austin.

Later ones have been Rev. Collins, Rev. Ream, Rev. Thompson, Rev. Dudley. The present pastor is Rev. Fred L. Willis.

In 1889 the old building was torn down and beautiful modern structure erected in its place at a cost of more than fifteen thousand dollars.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The First Presbyterian church in the county was organized at Lexington in 1857 with eleven members. Rev. C. G. Bell was the minister who effected the organization. In 1859 the organization was removed to Bedford and had since been known as the Bedford Presbyterian church.

Some of the early pastors were: Rev. Bell, Rev. W. M. Stryker, Rev. S. A. McElherney, Rev. E. T. Randolph, Rev. R. A. McKinley, Rev. Sarchet, Rev. Wilel, Rev. Peirce and Rev. Barrackman. The present pastor is Rev. S. E.



Henry. The church has a live working membership of three hundred and twenty-five. In 1893, they replaced their frame building with a beautiful modern brick structure, costing about fifteen thousand dollars. Last year one of the best pipe organs in the state was installed at an expense of nearly two thousand, five hundred dollars. Some of the pioneer workers of the church deserve mention. Among those we recall, were Napoleon Goodsill and wife, John Graff and wife, J. M. Thompson and wife, J. M. Windsor and Lyman Evans and wife.

#### FIRST BAPTIST.

This church was organized in 1854 by Elder J. M. Smith. The original members were Rev. J. M. Smith and wife, V. Knight and wife, Albert Derrickson and wife, John Derrickson and wife, David Smith and wife, Mrs. Greer, J. A. Golding and wife and William Smith and wife. Elder J. M. Smith was the first pastor. In 1857 a church was built, E. Houck furnishing the lot. The first persons baptized were A. B. Vansickle, Amanda Vansickle, Caroline Holmenkratt and Ella Shultz. In their minutes for 1858 it is noted the church voted pastor's salary one hundred dollars a year. In June, 1858, John Evans was licensed to preach.

In 1870 the brick building that was used until 1900, was built at a cost of about eight thousand dollars. This edifice served them until 1900, when the present building, costing nearly sixteen thousand dollars was erected. It is built on the site of the old church which is one of the best locations in town. The exterior of the building is strikingly beautiful, and does not fail to elicit the admiration of every visitor. The interior is still more attractive than the exterior. The main auditorium is beautifully decorated, and the furniture displays excellent taste in the selection. The church has the basement finished for Sunday-school and prayer meeting purposes. They also have the necessary arrangements for giving their socials and church dinners.

The Baptist church numbers among its earlier members men who have contributed largely to the early history of the county. The Goldings, Smiths, Evans, Thomas McCracken and others are recalled as among the number.

Uncle "Jimmy" Smith and Uncle "Billy" Golding, are remembered as among the early preachers of the county, going far and enduring many hardships to carry the gospel message to remote settlements.

Elder J. M. Smith has been mentioned as the first pastor. Other early ones were Rev. D. Ivins, Rev. E. Otis, Elder John Evans, Elder F. M. Seay, Rev. C. C. Baird, Rev. S. M. Morton, Elder Stimpson, Elder William Golding, Rev. E. J. Lockwood, Rev. Wm. Tilley, Elder Robey, Rev. Jacobs. Among the later ones were. Rev. Lewis, Rev. Griffith. It was under Rev. Griffith's ministry that the present church was built. Rev. Jones succeeded Rev. Griffith. Rev. McMas- ters is the present pastor.

The church is active in all departments of church work and has a membership of about four hundred.

#### CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The Christian church was organized in 1856, with thirteen original members. Among these were Thomas and E. W. Cobb, Asa and Mary Cobb, William C. and





FIRST M. E. CHURCH, BEDFORD



CHRISTIAN CHURCH, BEDFORD





Mary Cole, J. D. Ross and wife, Julia Vincent and William Bradbury. Their first brick building, cost about six thousand dollars and was considered a good building in its time, but the church outgrew the building and in 1900, under the ministry of J. Will Walters, the present building, was erected. It probably has the greatest seating capacity of any church in the town, and in point of beauty compares favorably with the other three churches. It is convenient and modern in all its appointments, is elegantly furnished and is in every way a convenient and pleasant home for the organization. The cost of the building was about fifteen thousand dollars. For many years the Christian church was among the largest in point of membership in the city. The membership has been diminished somewhat by removals, so that the present membership is only about two hundred and fifty.

Some of the early preachers were: Elder Perigam, Elder Roach, Elder Kirkhan, Elder Porter, Elder Davis. Later ones were Elder Lucas, Elder Thomas, Elder Walters, Elder Ferguson, Elder Price and Elder Hendrickson.

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH.

There are but few Catholics in Bedford, yet they have a neat church, with services once a month. Pastor of the Lenox church usually conducts the services.

#### AFRICAN M. E. CHURCH.

Has a comfortable building, and while they have no regular pastor at present they have meetings at frequent intervals, and carry on much church work for so small a congregation.

#### AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH.

Also has a building for services, which they improved this summer, putting in electric lights and modern windows, painting, etc. They have no regular pastor, but like their Methodist brethren, they have frequent meetings, and regular prayer meeting services.

Bedford has her share of the civic societies—Masons, Eastern Star, Odd Fellows, and Daughters of Rebekah, Knights of Pythias, and Rathbone Sisters, Woodmen and Royal Neighbors, Yeomen, Fraternal Aid and G. A. R.

#### MASONIC.

The Masonic Lodge was organized in 1860. The style of the lodge is Taylor Lodge, No. 156, A. F. & A. M. The charter members were J. S. Rand, E. Cook, E. T. Smith, D. Underwood, J. M. Faulkner, J. J. Scott, A. M. Simpson, and James Mitchell; the date of the charter was June 8, 1860. The lodge was instituted by E. T. Smith, J. S. Rand and Ephraim Cook. The first officers were J. S. Rand, W. M.; E. Cook, S. W.; E. T. Smith, J. W.; Daniel Underwood, treasurer; J. W. Faulkner, secretary; J. J. Scott, S. D.; A. M. Simpson, J. D.; and James Mitchell, tyler.

The chapter at Bedford is known as Triangle Chapter, No. 68, R. A. M. In March, 1873, a meeting of the Royal Arch Masons of Bedford and vicinity was



called to organize a chapter, and a petition was signed by: R. O. Starling, M. C. Connett, R. B. Rockwell, W. F. Walker, Simeon Wright, John P. Wright, L. W. Fairbanks, O. B. Wilson, E. T. Smith, and W. G. Barrows, and was sent to the grand high priest of the state of Iowa, with a recommendation from Clarinda Chapter, No. 49, March 26, 1873. The dispensation was granted and the chapter was organized by S. S. Bean, then of Clarinda, who appointed Richard O. Starling to be the first high priest; M. C. Connett, first K.; R. B. Rockwell, to be first S. The charter was granted October 24, 1874. Many of the Masons are Knights Templar belong to Bethany Commandery at Creston. Quite a number are Shriners and belong to the Shriner's Temple, St. Joseph, Missouri.

The Ladies of the Eastern Star, have an active working lodge and it has a large membership.

#### ODD FELLOWS.

Bedford Lodge, No. 91, I. O. O. F. was organized October 9, 1856. The record of the first year is not in existence, hence it is not possible to give the names of the first officers, and a history of the organization. A partial list furnished to George H. Powers, by Joel Walker, twenty-eight years ago, is all we can give. Mr. Walker remembered Oliver Jencks, Oliver Hyde, Josiah Litteer and Ezkiel Rose as being among the number. The present membership is about one hundred. The present officers are: O. E. Wertz, N. G.; E. E. Kuhn, V. G.; M. L. Burt, K. S.; A. L. Soles, F. S.; E. E. Cass, treasurer.

The Daughters of Rebekah have the strongest ladies' order in the town.

Bedford Encampment, No. 73, I. O. O. F. was organized October 21, 1874, or rather that was the date of the charter. It was instituted by H. M. Cramer, of Clarinda, assisted by several members of the Clarinda encampment. The first officers were: J. M. Thirkield, chief patriarch; Levi Schaffer, high priest; L. S. Morris, senior warden; John Graff, junior warden; Cyrus Woolverton, treasurer, and W. W. Clark, scribe.

The charter members were: John Graff, Cyrus Woolverton, David H. Brown, L. S. Morris, Levi Schaffer, W. W. Clark, and J. M. Thirkield.

#### KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

The Knights of Pythias lodge was organized some time in the '80s. Among the early members were: T. H. Hull, L. J. James, A. G. Lucas, H. P. and H. M. Long, M. Miller, William and David Ramsay, Henry Webb, W. P. Bishop, Dr. Dunlavey and others. They have a strong organization, with a good working lodge of Rathbone Sisters in connection.

The membership is about one hundred at present.

Present officers: J. E. Lovell, C. C.; H. S. Webb, V. C.; Rev. D. McMasters, prelate; G. F. Manker, M. of W.; F. E. Coppel, K. of R. S.; J. S. Hanshaw, M. of F.; Sid. P. Webb, M. of Ex.; T. E. Carroll, M. at A.; L. E. Purcell, I. G.; F. J. Butler, O. G.; G. M. Bradley, trustee.

#### MODERN WOODMEN.

Modern Woodmen of America were organized in the early '90s, and has had a steady growth, notwithstanding the many removals the order has constantly increased its membership.

The present membership is about two hundred and ten.

The present officers are: consul, M. Miller; worthy advisor, Harry Crum; banker, Roy Clayton; clerk, I. J. Bailey; escort, F. E. Coppel; inner guard, J. S. Hanshaw; outer guard, Roy Wisdom. The Royal Neighbors have an enthusiastic lodge with good membership.

#### YEOMEN.

Yeomen was organized about ten years ago. It has been a rapidly growing organization. The membership is now nearly one hundred. The present officers are: foreman, Elzie Owings; master of ceremonies, George Ditty; correspondent, Ira Hibbs; M. U., H. P. Long; physician, W. R. Ritter; overseer, Ira Gray; watchman, Will Douglas; sentinel, John Clymar; guard, Fred Harrington; L. R., Mrs. Olu Gray; L. R., Mrs. Edith Wycoff.

#### FRATERNAL AID.

This society like the Woodmen and Yeomen besides being a social order, has for its main object the insurance of its members. The lodge was organized in 1897 or 1898 and first held meetings in the G. A. R. Hall they now meet in the Clifton house, where they have fitted up a comfortable lodge room. The membership is nearly one thousand and is growing rapidly.

#### GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

Sedgwick Post, Grand Army of the Republic has a membership now of eighty-six. In time past the membership has been one hundred and fifty. In 1887 the Post built a two-story brick building that is an ornament to the town. The Post occupies the upper floor, where they have one of the finest halls in Iowa. The lower floor is always rented for mercantile purposes, being occupied at present by Swearingen Brothers, grocers.

The officers of the Post now are: Commander, T. R. Jones; senior vice commanders, George Reed and Harrison Adams; officer of the day, W. P. Peterman; quartermaster, E. G. Moore; surgeon, Dr. H. F. Dunlavey; chaplain, S. J. Dallison; guard, Harvey Cook. There is a strong Relief Corps in connection with the Post.

Bedford was incorporated May 28, 1866 and Joseph H. Turner was elected mayor, W. F. Walker, recorder and William Walker, Curtis Wilkins, Charles Cope, R. H. Patrick and J. M. Houck, councilmen.

November 13, 1866 the council met to report by laws and ordinances and "boundaries and seals" as well. It was ordered that the meetings of the council should be Monday evenings, on or before the full moon in each month, and elective officers to serve one year. At all meetings the mayor should preside but he had no voice in the proceedings of the council. Bonds were fixed as follows: Recorder's bond, five hundred dollars; marshal's bond, five hundred dollars; treasurer's bond, five hundred dollars and street commissioner's bond at five hundred dollars. Licenses were fixed as follows: Auctioneer's license (annually) five dollars; billiard tables, ten dollars; bowling alleys, ten dollars; bagatelle tables,



ten dollars; circus or menagerie (per day) twenty-five dollars; side show, five dollars; and draymen (annually) one dollar. An ordinance prohibiting cows from running at large was also passed.

In February, 1867, the first ordinance on side walks was passed. They were ordered to be ten feet wide. Some of the earlier mayors were: L. N. Lewis, G. L. Finn, J. D. Morris, Lyman Evans, W. F. Randolph, W. F. Walker, F. E. Walker and M. C. Fuller.

In 1883, an imposing city hall was built on Court street. It has a large hall on the second floor that for quite awhile was rented by the county for a court room; below are the city offices, barn and the room for the fire engine, hose carts, and so forth. The town is well equipped for fighting fire. It has a fine chemical engine and hook and ladder outfit with a good equipment of hose since the putting in of the water works system.

The present mayor of the city is F. N. Lewis; clerk, Elmer Brice; treasurer, Sid P. Webb; marshall, F. E. Snyder; night watch, Tom Meredith. The members of the council are: Fred Payton, Harlan Montgomery, A. E. Lake, Clark Kinnison, James Hanshaw and Court Orth; city attorney, Bruce Flick.

In speaking of the business of the town, we desire to call special attention to the lines that probably come under the head of manufacturing industries.

#### BEDFORD CREAMERY.

Few realize the magnitude of this industry that has been built up by Mr. Frank Dunning. Taking up the stock of the old creamery built years ago by a stock company, and which had been dead for several years, Mr. Dunning proceeded to put it on a systematic basis. It has steadily grown, and several times has had to increase the capacity of the plant. In 1906, the old building burned and a rebuilding site was purchased south of the old mill on the switch leading to the Nold Taylor Lumber Company's yard. Here a twenty thousand dollar building was erected, equipped with the latest improved machinery, cold storage room, and so forth. Last year the output of the creamery was one million, two hundred and fifty thousand pounds of butter. The territory extends east to the Great Western Railroad, as far north as Diagonal and south to Parnell; on the Burlington branch to Creston on the north and Bolekow on the south; northwest on the main line of the Burlington to Villisca, southwest to Braddyville, Page county. There are about fifty-five men on the pay roll, and ninety mules are used for operating the various cream routes.

#### IOWA AND MISSOURI GRANITE MONUMENT COMPANY.

This company was organized for business in November, 1904, with C. L. Van Nostrand, manager. Mr. Van Nostrand's ability as a manager is shown in the remarkable growth of the business. It is the largest retail marble and granite business west of the Mississippi. All kinds of monumental work is done here from the plainest, to first-class statuary. Space forbids the personal mention of some of the artists employed here, suffice it to say that some of them are specialists of national reputation. They are the highest paid mechanics in the state.





RESIDENCE OF W. E. CRUM, BEDFORD



RESIDENCE OF FRANK DUNNING. BEDFORD





Twenty-five people are on the payroll. There are four salesmen constantly on the road. Their territory is practically all of the southwestern Iowa, and northwestern Missouri. Owing to the class of work produced they are rapidly widening their territory.

Bedford has three banks, the First National and the Citizens, having been established many years, and the Farmers and Merchants Bank, being organized a little more than a year ago.

The Bedford National Bank officers are: president, W. E. Crum, vice-president, F. E. Walker; cashier, Charles G. Martin; and assistant cashier, H. R. Reynolds. From the report of November 9, 1909, is taken the following figures: capital stock, fifty thousand dollars; surplus fund, fifty thousand dollars; deposits, two hundred and forty thousand, one hundred and eighty-four dollars and ninety-four cents.

The officers of the Citizens Bank are: president, Frank Dunning; vice-president, A. P. Evans; cashier, H. P. Long; assistant cashier, Clyde Dunning. The capital and surplus is one hundred thousand dollars; deposits, two hundred and

The Farmers and Merchants Bank was organized last year with F. N. Lewis, president and George Hartley, cashier. Mr. Hartley retired early this year, Mr. Lewis taking over Hartley's stock. Mr. Lewis is still president and Lloyd N. Lewis, cashier. The capital stock is twelve thousand dollars. The present bank buildings in Bedford have added much to the appearance of the town.

Last year the Bedford National built at an expense of more than forty-thousand dollars and this year Mr. Dunning has been building on the old Heller corner an equally expensive building. Mr. Lewis has also put up this summer on the old Golliday lots, a fine two-story double-room building, one room of which he will occupy with his bank.

Some of the leading lines of business in Bedford at present are: Dry goods: Thompson Mercantile Company, Bisco & Company; general store: E. S. Van Sickle; racket stores: Sid P. Webb, Peter O. Dougherty; groceries: A. C. Brice Company, S. D. Maxwell, John Tate, J. H. Roe, Swearingen Brothers, Humphrey & Burnside, Peter A. Dougherty.

Clothing: Thompson Clothing Company; Gildner Clothing Co.; C. E. Paul. Hardware and furniture: Stephen & Taylor; Willis & Hook. Implements and vehicles: A. J. Sowers; W. R. Ritter. Lumber companies: Hawkey Lumber Co., H. C. Webb, manager; Nold. Taylor Lumber Co., Milton Hoxworth, manager. Drug stores: Harry Rhoades; A. L. Bibbins; Frank Wright, Millinery; Miss Ella Wintrumute; Lovell & Lovell; McCloud Sisters. Restaurants: Harry Meek; Fuller; John Armstrong; Gus Bock. Hotels: Garland, J. J. Clark; Elmwood, Isaac Rhoades. Harness: C. M. Steele; O. D. Laird; D. Sperry. Cigar manufactory: Joseph and Sperry. Plumbers and tinnerns: W. F. Walker; Cory Corson; G. A. Tucker. Blacksmiths: Hindman & Son; N. S. Sawyer; Tracy; George Hughes; Bock. Constructors: Charles Greenlee; Dallison Brothers; Edwin Golding; Charles Winder. Livery: Dougherty & Churchill; Clark Kinnison. Feed barns: Van Riewan; A. J. Sleep. Horse dealers: Harry Evans; Keith Brothers. Poultry and eggs: J. M. Little. Feed stores: W. A. Harvey; Thomas Greer & Son. Shoe repairer and dealer: Clay Thomas. Barbers: Fitch & Golding; Hindman & Crow; Ben Williams; Gray. Dentists: Mauker & Paschal; Dr. Bates. Physicians:



C. M. Paschal; J. W. Beauchamp; A. A. Archer; H. F. Dunlavey; J. P. Standley; and Dr. Milo Dunning. Veterinary surgeons: Dr. Anderson; Peter Lacey. Attorneys: McCoun & Burrell; M. R. Brant; A. M. Jackson; Flick & Flick; Crum, Juqua & Crum; Wisdom & Van Houten; G. B. Haddock. Real estate: A. S. H. Real Estate Co., W. A. Harvey, Kenneth Stephens and Frank Allen; M. A. Sawyer; George McKinley; Fred Payton; Craig Terrill. Bedford mills; Whittington Hall. Brick yard: George McKinley. Marble and graniteworks: Iowa & Missouri Granite Company; M. Miller Marble & Granite Works.

The Taylor County Farmers' Mutual Insurance Co. has its offices here. While the business is confined to farm risks of Taylor county alone, it has one million two hundred thousand dollars insurance in force. G. W. Hook is the president; A. B. Wakeman, vice-president; Horace Hamplin, secretary.

Bedford has a complete system of water works and sewers, and a first-class electric light plant. This year about eight blocks of paving was put in with five or six blocks partially completed. The Standard Oil Company has a station here, that supplies the local trade and the nearby towns. The coal and grain dealers were overlooked in the list of business. C. O. Drisher and Fielding Webb each conduct a coal and grain business. William Seane buys stock, and Sidney Thompson owns the scales and stock yards.

In writing up the various towns of the county, much had to be omitted on account of space. The aim has been to show briefly the various lines of business of the present day.

#### THE PRESS OF BEDFORD.

The first newspaper published in the county was the "South-West." About the first of October, 1857, Edwin Houck, one of the early settlers of the county, wrote to J. M. Dixon, of the Des Moines Register, asking him to send a man to Bedford to start a newspaper. After some delay, Joseph H. Turner, who had been living at the capital for several months, made a trip to Bedford to view the ground. He found it a village of perhaps three hundred inhabitants, and the county sparsely settled, with from three hundred to four hundred voters. Satisfactory arrangements were made whereby sufficient financial backing was furnished by E. Houck, A. Ballou and E. W. Fouts; and after many delays and discouragements the press was purchased at St. Louis. It was shipped by the Missouri River to St. Joseph, but before reaching that point the river was a sheet of ice. However, the type and press finally reached Bedford, and on or about the first of February, 1858, the "Iowa South-West," made its first appearance. It was a six column folio of fair typography, and having all the work of the county, aided by the hard times of 1857, which gave it a large amount of legal work, it was soon on a substantial basis. In 1859 George Moser was taken in as a partner, and the business was conducted for several months by Turner and Moser, when Turner sold out his interest to Moser. It is due Mr. Turner to give a little more of his personal history, inasmuch as he was the first publisher of a newspaper in Taylor county; was one of its early settlers, and identified with its history. After selling his interest in the South-West, he farmed six miles southeast of Bedford, on Honey Creek, until the outbreak of the war, when he enlisted as a private in Company F, Twenty-ninth Iowa



Infantry Volunteers, Colonel Thomas H. Benton, Jr., commanding. He was made sergeant-major of the regiment at its organization, and afterward first lieutenant of Company F. He served as captain and acting assistant adjutant-general on the staffs of Generals Rice and Solomon in Arkansas and at Mobile. At the close of the war he returned to Bedford and in January, 1867, recommenced the publication of the South-West, which had been suspended for a time. After a few months Turner sold the paper to Mr. S. Lucas, and went to Missouri, where he started the Wakanda Record, an eight-column folio, republican in politics. In 1868 his plant was entirely destroyed by fire with no insurance, but in four weeks he had another office in operation, and after years of hard work built up a business worth six thousand dollars, when he had another fire, January 19, 1878, wiping out every thing, except an insurance of one thousand five hundred dollars. In August, 1878 he again started, and this time his publication was called the Carroll Record, and although a republican paper, published in a Missouri county having four hundred democratic majority, was in a flourishing condition; the last heard from by old settlers who knew Turner.

Soon after purchasing the paper Mr. Lucas took in as partner a Mr. Patrick of Fairfield, who was a newspaper man of considerable ability. Later, G. N. Udell became a partner of Mr. Lucas, but in 1872 Mr. Lucas again became sole proprietor. Mr. Lucas continued the publication of the paper for several years. Finally selling to Edwin Houck, who took as a partner, J. D. Smith, who afterward became postmaster under Cleveland's administration. Mr. Houck was an editorial writer of ability and the paper was warmly supported by the county democracy. Later the paper was published for a while by a young man named Brown, who later sold to R. S. Bonham. After a year or two Bonham traded with H. E. Movers, who had been publishing the Blockton News. It should have been stated that under Bonham's ownership, the paper lost its old name. Bonham rechristened it, giving it the name "Free Press," which it still bears. The paper is now owned and published by R. V. Lucas, son of A. G. Lucas, for many years editor of the Taylor County Republican.

Mr. Lucas has much of the ability of his gifted father, as an editorial writer, and being a practical printer, he is giving the paper a county paper, unexcelled in the state. The room he occupies was built especially for a printing office. He has a power press, a typesetting machine and all other modern accessories of a first-class printing office. It should be noted that up until Mr. Lucas assumed control of the paper for the second time, which was in 1872, the paper had been republican, of the old stalwart variety. But in 1872 Mr. Lucas espoused the cause of Horace Greeley, the democratic candidate for president, and the paper remained democratic until Mr. Lucas became its owner.

In 1872 G. N. Udell started the Bedford "Argus." Udell was an able writer and he at once made the "Argus" a popular paper. The plant was destroyed by fire in 1873, but Mr. Udell immediately put in a new outfit. In 1874 the Argus was sold to Dr. M. C. Connett, who employed A. J. Cook and C. W. Connett to run it. In three months Dr. Connett sold it to the Hale brothers—John and William, who published it for two years. Dr. J. D. Morris purchased the plant in 1876. He in turn sold in 1877 to George H. Powers, who published the Argus until 1880, when it passed into the hands of a stock company, composed of the following men:



W. E. Crum, J. R. Van Fleet, O. B. Thompson, P. C. King, C. H. Dow, George H. Powers, M. C. Connett, Sid. Schram, H. McConvill, Mark Atkinson, E. D. Kepner, W. F. Evans, L. W. Fairbanks. George H. Powers was elected editor and W. F. Evans, treasurer and manager. In 1881 Powers sold his interest and W. F. Evans was elected editor. The paper continued under this management until it was finally bought by Pierce and Lucas, who had established a paper in 1878, which they named the Taylor County Republican. Messrs. Pierce and Lucas had formerly published the Grant City (Missouri) Star, and later the Hopkins Journal. The Republican met with the most flattering success from the start. Mr. Lucas had few equals in the state as an editorial writer, and as a business manager Mr. Pierce was unexcelled. So the paper soon stood at the head of the county papers in influence and patronage. Mr. Pierce finally severed his connection with the paper, having become interested in the "Homestead." Mr. Lucas continued the publication of the paper for some time, finally disposing of it to join the editorial staff of the Homestead. He is now in Buffalo, Wyoming, engaged in the newspaper business. After Mr. Lucas severed his connection with the paper, William Cochran published it for a time. It was later published by J. B. Dum and sons. Then was controlled by a stock company for awhile and the company finally sold to J. J. Clark, who was publishing a paper called the Independent, and the two names were merged into the "Independent-Republican," which name Mr. Clark afterward dropped and adopted the name "Times-Republican," by which title the paper is still known.

In 1880, John V. Faith began the publication of the "Taylor County Democrat," which some time later was taken over by the "South-West," and was thereafter known as the "South-West-Democrat," which we neglected to state was the name of the paper. In the time of Mr. Houck's ownership and thereafter until the business fell into the hands of Bonham. Just when, or under whose ownership the two papers were united we do not recall.

John J. Clark published a paper at Gravity, but removed the plant to Bedford. The paper was the "Independent," spoken of elsewhere. Mr. Clark built up a good patronage for the "Independent," and started a daily which he published for many years after purchasing the old "Republican" plant and good will. Mr. Clark made the "Times-Republican" the official paper of the county. The office is one of the best equipped in the county. A fine power press, latest improved job presses, paper folder and linotype machine. Mr. Clark was a practical printer, having worked at the trade from his youth and he took great pride in the paper, but on account of having too much business on his hands, and to take a much needed rest after years of close application, he sold the plant last year to Mr. Campbell. Mr. Campbell is the editor and manager, and he came to the paper with a thorough experience in newspaper work. He is a hard worker, a brilliant writer and a courteous gentleman who has made friends rapidly since his connection with the paper.

It is said by some of the early settlers that there was another paper published in Bedford, about the time of the Civil war, but what was its name, no man can tell, at least the writer found no one who really knew. Most of the moulders of public opinion mentioned in this article have long since died, some of them years ago. Many of them were men of ability and integrity and contributed in no small

degree to the development of the county. One of the oldest newspaper men of the county, however, is still very much alive and lately visited Bedford. We refer to Sereny Lucas, the early editor of the old South-West.

## OLD SETTLERS' REMINISCENCES; EXTRACTS FROM OLD NEWSPAPERS, ETC.

This chapter is thrown in as addenda to the book. It contains some things omitted from articles under which they belong, extracts from old records that had no proper place elsewhere, scraps of legend handed down from the pioneer settlers, and a few items of interest, gleaned from old newspapers still in existence.

William Hindman is authority for the following:

In the first criminal suit in the county, Isaac Dowis, who then lived in the county, was indicted by the grand jury for assault upon John Hayden, with intent to commit great bodily injury. In the suit that followed, Dowis was acquitted and the costs in the case taxed up to Hayden, who was then clerk of the court. Hayden not having paid the costs, the proper officers were ordered to collect them. So they called on Hayden at his home, he having no office, there being no courthouse at the time. Hayden did not remember the amount of the costs without referring to the record, which he proceeded to get but could not find it. He stated to the officers that he had placed them in a chink in the logs that formed a side to his one room residence, and, in his opinion the mice had destroyed them. The papers were never found and Hayden never paid the costs.

In 1862, when the war cloud hung over the land, and more soldiers were needed our county board of supervisors arose to the emergency of the situation as follows:

At a meeting of the board, September 1862, Cobb of Benton offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That this board appropriate twenty dollars for the benefit of the families of every citizen of Taylor county who will enlist in James Brooks' Company, and a bounty of ten dollars to every single man who will enlist in said company, said bounties to be paid of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

On motion the yeas and nays were called for which resulted as follows:

Yeas: Cobb of Benton, Samuel Weaver, B. B. Hoover, John King, Oliver Jenks, D. W. Hamblin.

Nays: Wm. Meredith, J. B. Campbell, Cobb of Ross.

A census was taken of the various townships by the assessors in 1859 and the population was found to be as follows:

Benton, 658; Clayton, 349; Dallas, 247; Jackson, 263; Polk, 358; Washington, 311; Jefferson, 349; Mason, 313; Marshall, 128; Nodaway, 162; Ross, 307; Platte, 28; Total, 3,473.

Appended to the above table in the old record the following entry appears:

The number of inhabitants being three thousand, four hundred and seventy-three the salary of county officials, viz.: county judge, clerk of district court, and



recorder and treasurer, as fixed by law is hereby declared to be four hundred dollars per annum.

Done at Bedford this 5th day of April, A. D., 1859.

JESSE EVANS,  
*County Judge.*

In the early day the nearest physician was in Maryville, and residents needing a doctor had to make the twenty-five mile trip on horseback. Dr. Luther Bent after taking a medical course located in Maryville and was occasionally called to visit the sick of this county. This was in 1852. Learning that there was no doctor here, he came to the county in 1853, taking up his residence with Judge Lowe, whose daughter he afterward married. He was not only popular as a physician but he was so active in all public affairs that he deserves special mention. Many are the stories told of Dr. Bent. He was a generous courtly gentleman and commanded the respect of his enemies, and the ardent admiration of his friends. He was high spirited and impulsive, which occasionally led to personal encounters. A story, which is vouched for by men still living, will illustrate one side of the doctor. In 1854 two men, John Thompson and J. W. Miller, laid the foundation of a cabin on, and filed a preemption claim to a portion of the land on which Bedford now stands. Subsequently Dr. Bent purchased the claim, and, although of no validity in law, it was respected by the settlers until the fall of that year. In the meantime a party of emigrants had arrived from Indiana, among whom was a physician named Derrickson. The newly arrived doctor, in looking around for a place to invest his money was attracted to Dr. Bent's claim. But not wishing to violate the rules that were held sacred by the early settlers, he went to Dr. Bent and asked him if he intended to enter it. Receiving an affirmative answer he said, "Then I will not." Thompson then represented to Dr. Derrickson that Dr. Bent had not purchased the claim from himself and Miller, and through his own and the influence of Madison Guess, Derrickson was prevailed upon to make the entry. When Dr. Bent heard of this he was greatly angered, and he came down town carrying a loaded revolver in his hand. On meeting Dr. Derrickson he said, "I understand you have entered my land, and I give you one minute to decide whether you will make a personal matter of it or leave it to friendly arbitration." Derrickson answered, "You have taken me by surprise Dr." Dr. Bent simply said, "Your time is passing, sir." Derrickson then replied, "I will leave it to disinterested men." Dr. Bent turned and left him. Dr. Bent selected Judge Lowe as his arbitrator. Dr. Derrickson chose one of his friends and the matter was amicably adjusted and the title to the land was passed to Dr. Bent. In his earlier days Dr. Bent had crossed the plains, and he learned that Indians sometimes celebrated the ratification of peace by feasting on the fattest dog in the tribe. The doctor's eccentricity led him to conceive the idea of sanctifying the occasion of his treaty with Dr. Derrickson by inviting his own and his opponent's friends to a "dog-supper." A large fat dog was selected and slaughtered, the hind quarters dressed and baked under the doctor's supervision. The banquet was given at Fenno's hotel, and in addition to the roast, the menu contained everything in the way of edibles the town afforded.

It was a great affair, and all went merry. The peace thus established that night was never afterward broken.

Along in the '50s, when the county officers consisted of the county judge, and about three other men, among whom the various offices were divided, one officer taking care of two or three of the different departments of county business, there was found to be a few dollars in the treasurer's hands that could not be accounted for; search as they would they could find no fund to which it belonged. The matter was finally settled by the officers dividing the money among themselves, the clerk solemnly recording the transaction in his minute book.

Extracts from files of the *South West* for 1867:

Issue of February 9th.—“We understand that the three sons of James Gartside have caught three hundred prairie chickens this winter.”

Issue of February 9th. Bedford Retail Market: Flour \$4.50 @ \$5.50 per 100 lbs; Wheat, \$1.25 @ \$1.50 per bushel; Corn, 50 cents per bushel; Oats, 40 cents per bushel; Potatoes, \$1.25 to \$1.40 per bushel; Green Apples, \$2.50 to \$3.00 per bushel; Butter, 20 cents per lb.; Cheese, 30 cents per lb.; Coffee, 33 1-3 cents per lb.; Tea, \$2.00 to \$2.40 per lb.; Sugar, brown, 20 cents per lb.; Sugar, crushed, 30 cents per lb.; Salt, 4 cents per lb.; Rice, 16 2-3 cents per lb.; Pork, 7 and 8 cents per lb.; Lard, 8 and 10 cents per lb.; Eggs, 20 cents per doz.; Coal Oil, 90 cents to \$1.00 per gal.; Molasses, \$1.00 per gal.; Vinegar, 60 cents per gal.; Hay, \$5.00 per ton.

It would seem from reading the following appeal that editors experienced difficulty in collecting subscription in pioneer days, the same as they do now.

“We trust that our friends will remember that we take all kinds of produce on subscription for the *South West*, and will not be backward in bringing forward their wood, coal, lumber, beef, pork, chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, corn, wheat, rye, oats, potatoes, beans, turnips, beets, peas, barley, buckwheat, radishes, onions, parsnips, carrots, hard soap, (we have plenty of the soft variety) in fact anything in the world except cold victuals, old clothes, and forty rod whiskey.”

It would seem from the following notice that the people of Bedford were addicted to the use of tobacco in the early days:

The Anti-Tobacco Society will meet at the courthouse, next Thursday evening, March 21st, at early candle lighting. All are invited to attend.

In the issue of April 1st: E. T. Smith, clerk of the board of supervisors, advertises for sale several parcels of school land. Valuation per acre, \$2.50 to \$3.00.

Note the following from the issue of May 1st: “We had occasion to pass through Platteville the other day, and found that Standley was selling genuine Merrimac prints at eighteen cents per yard and an excellent quality of brown sugar, seven pounds for one dollar. We are tempted to hope that the good old times are coming again when we can afford to buy some of the sweets of life, and dress our women folks in ‘Caliker.’”

The following unique notice in the issue of November 23d is typical of Uncle Jimmie Gartside's bluff manner:

“I will give to any good preacher five dollars that will come to the Teachnor schoolhouse and preach a good sermon on back-biting, provided he gives one week's notice of the same.

“JAMES GARTSIDE.”



In the files of the *Iowa South West* for 1867, we have been quoting from, we note some well known names, among the advertisers: Patrick and Walker handled hardware, tinware and implements. D. C. Eldridge handled drugs and groceries. O. W. Houck handled furniture and coffins. John Garmon had a general store. Uncle Cy Wolverton advertised to do anything in the blacksmithing line. S. S. Patch, familiarly known now as Smith Patch, had a general store. C. C. Hess, and Windsor & Cathcart, had general stores. Dr. Galliday was in the drug business. Dr. M. C. Connett, Dr. L. Bent, and Dr. W. H. Hamilton were practicing here at that time. The only lawyers' cards seen are those of McCoun & Turner and L. N. Lewis. W. E. Swan was in the jewelry and clock business and H. Wolcott advertised to do boot and shoe repairing.







*Frause Dunning*



*Rebecca M. Dunning*

# BIOGRAPHICAL

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## FRANK DUNNING.

While a large percentage of Taylor county's business men have been attracted to this locality by reason of its broad opportunities and business conditions, becoming factors in its active life in recent years, there are also found among the prominent representatives of the financial, commercial, manufacturing and agricultural interests those who have been identified with the county through long years and have not only been witnesses of its growth but have aided largely in its yearly development and progress. To this class belongs Frank Dunning, the president of the Citizens Bank of Bedford. He was born near Edwardsburg, in Cass county, Michigan, March 15, 1845.

The Dunning family came originally from England and the branch to which our subject belongs was established in Connecticut at an early day. The first of his ancestors of whom we have any record is Benjamin Dunning, who was born in Warren, Litchfield county, Connecticut, and from there removed to central New York. He was twice married and by the first union had four children: Sally, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. His second wife was Mercy Shove, and to them were born eight children, namely: Betsey, Lois, Jemima, Clarinda, Mercy, Lorainy, Arilla and Benjamin Alva. Dr. Isaac Dunning, a son by the first marriage, was the grandfather of our subject. He was born in Connecticut, October 21, 1772, and became a physician, practicing his profession for many years both in the east and the middle west. In 1832 he removed to Edwardsburg, Michigan, where he died in 1850. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Hulda Rood, was born July 3, 1783, and died December 2, 1861. Their children were: Horace B., who married Sarah A. Camp; Philander B., who married Fidelia Treat; Emily M., the wife of Uriel Enos; Barton B., who married Laura Stiles; Benjamin B., who married Harriet Letson; Isaac M., who died in infancy; Harriet M., wife of Nathan Aldrich; and Oscar M., who is the only one of the family now living, his sketch appearing on another page of this volume.

Barton B. Dunning, a member of this family and the father of our subject, was born in Cayuga county, New York, April 3, 1809, and accompanied his parents on their removal to Michigan. In 1852 he made an overland trip to California, where he engaged in digging gold but later returned to Michigan, and



in 1855 came to Iowa, having been favorably impressed with its advantages and opportunities when crossing the state on his way to the Pacific coast. He located at Mount Ayr before the town was laid out, although its location had been chosen, and he became a pioneer merchant of that place, carrying a general stock of goods. He bought a tract of government land on coming to this state and was also extensively engaged in feeding cattle and mules. In 1868 he removed to Chicago, where he engaged in the real-estate business for a time, but a few years later returned to Mount Ayr and lived with his son Day, and died at the old homestead, October 13, 1877. In early manhood he wedded Laura L. Stiles, a native of Granville, Massachusetts, and a daughter of John Roger and Lucina (Spellman) Stiles, who were also natives of the Old Bay State. John Roger Stiles was a son of John and Ruth (Roberts) Stiles, in whose family were the following children: Electa, born September 1, 1777, and died December 16, 1857; Anna and Jerusha, twins, born August 5, 1778; John Roger, born August 5, 1783, and died August 8, 1849; and John Loren, born November 3, 1795, who died January 14, 1798. The father of Mrs. Lucina (Spellman) Stiles lived on a farm in Massachusetts until his marriage, when he became a tanner and made his home in Granville. He died when more than sixty years of age, while his wife reached the age of seventy-eight years. Mr. Dunning remembers her as one of the sweetest of characters and most beautiful of women. John Roger and Lucina (Spellman) Stiles were the parents of fourteen children, namely: Almira, died May 14, 1803. Anna, born August 10, 1805, died March 14, 1813. Jeremiah, born June 5, 1807, died November 1, 1831. John Alsop, born May 3, 1809, was a prominent physician who went to Mishawaka, Indiana, in the '30s and there died in 1851 or 1852. Mary, born May 6, 1811, became the wife of James Blair and died July 22, 1833. Jerusha, born February 14, 1813, died September 5, 1842. Laura, born May 20, 1815, was married between Christmas and New Years, 1839, to Barton B. Dunning, the father of our subject. Jeanette, born April 16, 1817, was married December 11, 1838, to William Loomis, and became the mother of W. S. Loomis, the head of the electric system at Holyoke, Massachusetts, and was also the projector and builder of the electric road up Mount Tom. Emeline, born May 2, 1819, married a Mr. Emmons of Buffalo, New York, and they moved to Missouri, locating near St. Louis, where she was a teacher all her life. Ruth Serepta, born March 22, 1821, died March 7, 1846. Charles Spellman, born March 22, 1823, was overseer of cotton mills at Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts, until he retired to a small farm when nearly seventy years of age. Maria H., born June 17, 1826, died July 17, 1831. Fidelia, born November 17, 1827, became the wife of John Herrick and died March 8, 1882. Harriet, born May 12, 1829, died July 12, 1831. The mother of Frank Dunning passed away March 18, 1906, when nearly ninety-one years of age. She held membership in the Methodist church while her husband's family were Baptists. At the time of the Civil war Barton B. Dunning did active duty in the border campaigns. His family numbered four children: Walter, a resident of Denver, Colorado, who served three years in the Civil war as a member of the Twenty-ninth Iowa Regiment; Frank, of this review; Day, living in Labette, Kansas; and Charles B., who was the first white child born at Mount Ayr and whose demise there occurred on the 11th of December, 1881.



Frank Dunning was ten years of age when he accompanied his parents to Ringgold county, an open prairie country, with but few inhabitants, and he assisted in surveying and laying out the town when the nearest house to the site of the village was two and a half miles. On his father's arrival there in April, 1855, he entered a thousand acres of land and built a cabin of poles without nails but notched together and chinked and daubed with mud. He covered the cabin with clapboards and then returned to Decatur City for his family, bringing them to his newly constructed pioneer home in June, 1855. They made the trip with a team of horses and covered wagon. A tribe of Pottawattamie Indians were in that neighborhood at the time and frequently visited the cabin.

The events and experiences of pioneer life made a deep impression upon the mind of Frank Dunning. He received his education in the public schools of Mount Ayr. When thirteen years of age he began to buy cattle and mules and has continued in that line of business ever since, finding it a source of substantial and gratifying profit. He is an excellent judge of farm animals and now owns eighty-six head of fine mules. For a considerable period he also carried on general farming and cattle feeding but in February, 1872, removed to Bedford and purchased the interest of F. E. Walker in the banking business conducted under the name of Dale, Smith & Company. In August, 1873, however, Mr. Dunning withdrew from that firm and in November, 1874, purchased the bank of G. S. Plants & Company, in Hopkins, Missouri. In connection with J. C. Waterman & Goodsell Brothers he organized the Bank of Hopkins and conducted that institution until July 1, 1877, when he returned to Bedford and organized the Citizens Bank, his partners being A. P. Evans, J. E. Anderson, Alexander Goodsell and Napoleon Goodsell. The bank was capitalized for twenty thousand dollars. At the same time Mr. Dunning still held his interest in the Bank of Hopkins. The capital stock of the Citizens Bank was afterward increased to thirty thousand dollars and the capital stock and surplus now amount to one hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Dunning is the president of the bank and the entire responsibility of its management, organization and conduct has rested upon him from the beginning. More than twenty years ago he purchased the interest of the Goodsell brothers and later Mr. Anderson's interest, while A. P. Evans still retains his stock and has been vice-president of the institution from the beginning. The position of cashier has been occupied by H. P. Long since 1886, and the present assistant cashier is Clyde Dunning, a son of Day Dunning. In 1909, under Mr. Dunning's supervision, there was erected on the corner of Main street and Central avenue a bank building, which without doubt is the most substantial and beautiful structure in the city. It is two stories in height, with a basement, and is built of granite and vitrified brick with stone trimmings, the foundation being concrete. The vault is also made of concrete, reenforced with twisted steel bars, and it has a time lock, a Bessemer and crome steel door and every modern equipment. The upper floor of the building is divided into four office suites and on the main floor there are two office suites besides the bank proper. The front part of the basement will be occupied by offices of the Bedford Creamery, and adjoining these will be a rest room for the families of patrons of the bank and creamery, being supplied with toilets and lavatories and many other conveniences, and will be furnished by James N. Pierce, editor of the *Homestead*. The bank has a beau-



tiful mosaic floor and a mahogany counter with brass trimmings, and thoroughly up to date. In fact, this bank is one of the finest and best in this section of the country.

Mr. Dunning is also identified with other important business interests at Bedford, the principal one of which is the Bedford Creamery, with which he became connected in the '90s. The plant, which had been considerably enlarged, was burned to the ground December 10, 1906, incurring not only a complete loss of the building and machinery but also twenty-five hundred dollars' worth of butter. As soon as the smoke had cleared away Mr. Dunning, with his characteristic energy, began laying plans to continue the business and by night his plans were completed, so that the teams went out next day on their regular routes, only one day being lost in the conduct of the business. As soon as the frost was sufficiently out of the ground to lay a foundation, he began the erection of a creamery on a new site, on a switch from the main railroad track, and in sixty days was able to meet the demands of the season's business, which was greatly increased owing to the stimulus given the enterprise by prompt rebuilding and by showing a determination to carry on the business. The new creamery, which is the largest in the state under private ownership, is forty-two by eighty-two feet in dimensions, with a twenty-five by forty foot wing and cold-storage plant and facilities for loading direct in cars. The building is of brick with tile lining and cement floor, and there is a good system of draining, making it clean and sanitary. The Babcock system of testing is used, so that each patron is paid according to the amount of butter fat found in his cream, and a uniform price is paid to all. When Mr. Dunning assumed charge of the business it was badly involved, but being a man of marked initiative spirit and excellent constructive powers, he built up the business until now over twelve hundred thousand pounds of butter are manufactured annually. He placed with the patrons of the creamery over two thousand hand cream separators, which number has been greatly increased, and he gathers the cream with his own teams, utilizing a large number of mules in this way. This is the largest industry in the county and during the milking season pays out one thousand dollars daily for cream in addition to a large amount expended for help.

In 1884 James N. Pierce purchased the *Iowa Homestead*, of Des Moines, which was then a small agricultural paper on the east side, Mr. Dunning furnishing the capital. From that time to the present he has been associated with the enterprise and today the paper is the largest agricultural publication in the world. It has two auxiliaries: *The Wisconsin Farmer*, of Madison, Wisconsin; and *The Farmer and Stockman*, of Kansas City, Missouri. Through his connection with this enterprise, Mr. Dunning is a member of the Press Club of Des Moines.

On the 10th of January, 1878, Mr. Dunning was married to Miss Rebecca M. Weaver, and unto them have been born two children: Alice J., who is now the wife of Bruce J. Flick, of Bedford, and has one daughter, Margaret Elizabeth; and Frances M., who like her sister is a graduate of the Woman's College, Baltimore, Maryland.

Mrs. Dunning was born in St. Thomas, Pennsylvania, and prior to the Civil war accompanied her parents, Philip and Martha (Walker) Weaver, on their removal to Keithsburg, Illinois, where at the age of sixteen years she began teach-



ing school, following that profession until coming to Bedford, Iowa, in 1877. Here her brother had gone into business the year before, and here she met and married Mr. Dunning. Her parents were also natives of Pennsylvania and were of Scotch descent. Mr. Weaver died in Keithsburg, Illinois, but his wife passed away in Bedford. He was one of a family of six children, the others being John, David, Vandall, Catherine and Elizabeth, all now deceased, while in the Walker family, to which Mrs. Weaver belonged, there were five children: Martha, John, Mary, Susan and Elizabeth. All have passed away with the exception of Susan, who is living in Pennsylvania unmarried and is now over ninety-five years of age. The children born to Philip and Martha (Walker) Weaver were: M. A., who for twenty-five years was a prominent merchant of Bedford and died in 1901; Harry, who died in 1887; Frances M., who died in 1889; and Rebecca M., now Mrs. Dunning.

Mr. and Mrs. Dunning are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and in its work and activities are deeply and helpfully interested. Mr. Dunning is serving as one of the church trustees and has been a class leader almost continuously since becoming identified with the denomination and through the entire period has been either a Sunday-school teacher or superintendent of the Sunday-school. He does not regard his connection with the church as a secondary feature in his life but gives to it the important place which it should occupy and his example and his influence have been potent forces for good in the community. In the thirty years or more of her residence in Bedford, Mrs. Dunning has been just as active in the moral upbuilding of the community. After the saloons were voted out of Iowa in 1884 and the drug store became the purchasing place of drink and the business men were not willing to go beyond certain lines of action to arrest the sale of liquors by the drug stores, then Mrs. Dunning and Mrs. E. R. Hall took the matter up and with the aid of detectives and such other help as they could secure, they succeeded not only in having druggists who were selling illegally fined but followed them so closely with fines at each term of court that they were actually put out of business. Those two women did the real active work of handling the proposition, and, while it was strenuous and caused them many sleepless nights and months of anxiety, yet they were successful and the community is today receiving the benefit. Mr. Dunning has always been a strong temperance man, having signed the first pledge and all others that have been presented to him, and he also joined the first temperance society he had a chance to join and has become a member of all others with which he could affiliate.

Fraternally he is also connected with Taylor Lodge, No. 156, A. F. & A. M.; Triangle Chapter No. 68 R. A. M., Creston Commandery K. T. and Moila Temple of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at St. Joseph, Missouri. He is connected with Bedford Lodge, K. P., while his political allegiance is given to the republican party. He does not seek nor desire office but keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day and is thus able to support his position by intelligent argument. He is numbered among the county's successful constructive builders—acquainted with the story of its progress and an active factor in its growth. He possesses a strong nature and kindly spirit and his life has been actuated by high and manly principles. Altogether it has been a useful and honorable career and one that has been of marked value in this part of the state.



## JOSEPH P. STANDLEY, M. D.

Dr. Joseph P. Standley, one of the most capable and successful physicians and surgeons of Taylor county, now living in Bedford, is, as it were, to the manner born, for he is the son of a physician and the experiences and interests of his early life connected him in a degree with the profession which he afterward chose as a life work. In the field of business, however, he has won success equal to that which he has attained in professional lines and is recognized as a dynamic force in the community, possessing the unfaltering purpose and firm determination that enables him to carry forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. He was born in Platteville, Taylor county, Iowa, October 30, 1869, a son of Dr. Joseph R. and Rachel (Hornback) Standley, natives of Indiana and of Kentucky respectively. The ancestral history of the family gives account of three brothers of the name who came to this country about the time when the Pilgrim fathers landed on the shores of New England. The name was originally spelled Stanley but during the colonial wars some of the family remained loyal to the crown, while others gave their aid to the cause of liberty and inserted the "d" in their names to distinguish them from those who sympathized with the English in their endeavor to retain control of America as a colonial possession. William Standley, the grandfather of Dr. Standley, became one of the pioneer settlers of Indiana and followed farming near Greencastle. He aided in the early development of that state and died in Davis county, Indiana, when about eighty years of age. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Unity S. Mulnix, was a member of the Mulnix family who laid out the town of Greencastle. She, too, passed away at an advanced age.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. William Standley were born ten children, including Dr. Joseph R. Standley, who was reared a poor boy in Indiana and in his youthful days worked at odd jobs to earn money that would supply him with the necessities of life. Saving everything possible from his earnings, he eagerly pressed forward to the goal of his ambition—the study of medicine in preparation for the practice of the profession as a life work. When a young man he came to Iowa and located in Platteville, Taylor county, in 1855. There he took up a claim and while developing the property he also practiced his profession, being one of the pioneer physicians of the district. His broad humanitarianism prompted him to respond to every call made upon him and no night was too dark and no season too cold for him to go to the aid of those who needed his professional assistance. In time he began dealing in real estate as he saw opportunity for profitable investment and he also engaged in trading and in raising cattle on the range. Because of the growing demands of these interests he gave up the practice of medicine but throughout his remaining days his professional opinion was respected by physicians all over the county. As the years passed he accumulated considerable property and at his death left his children very comfortably situated financially. He passed away on the 22d of April, 1907, at the age of about seventy-six years, while his wife died in 1897 at the age of sixty-three years. She was a member of the Methodist church and, like her husband, enjoyed the respect and esteem of all who knew them. Their family numbered





DR. JOSEPH P. STANDLEY





but two children, the elder, a daughter, being Mrs. Ida May Terrill, the wife of Asa Terrill, of Blockton, Iowa.

In the maternal line Dr. Standley comes of German ancestry. His grandfather settled in Kentucky, where he lived for a time and afterward removed to Illinois, establishing his home near Barry, where he died. His widow lived to be more than eighty years of age and died in Platteville, this county. They were the parents of two sons and two daughters.

Dr. Joseph P. Standley was born and reared in Platteville, where he attended the public schools and later became a student in the high school in Bedford, while subsequently he attended the Iowa Wesleyan University at Mount Pleasant and thus completed his literary course. He was graduated from the Kentucky School of Medicine at Louisville in 1889 and having thus qualified for the profession, he entered upon active practice at Platteville, where he remained for thirteen years, when, seeking a broader field of labor, he removed to Bedford, where he has practiced continuously since. Reading, investigation and research have continually broadened his knowledge and promoted his efficiency, making him one of the most capable physicians of this part of the state and at all times his professional duties are discharged with a sense of conscientious obligation.

On the 24th of December, 1888, Dr. Standley was married to Miss Dora E. Wakefield, a daughter of John T. Wakefield. Her parents were early settlers of Illinois, locating near Peoria. Her father served as a soldier of the Civil war and died a few years after its close as the result of exposure which he had endured at the front. He had removed to Nebraska, establishing his home near Superior, on the banks of the Republican river, and there he died and was buried but his remains were afterward removed to Peoria, Illinois, and interred by the side of members of the family there. His wife died comparatively young. Their daughter Dora was their only child and on reaching womanhood she gave her hand in marriage to Dr. Standley. They have two children, Ida Fern and John Harlan. Mrs. Standley is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The Doctor is well known in fraternal relations, belonging to Taylor Lodge, No. 59, A. F. & A. M.; Triangle Chapter, No. 68, R. A. M.; Bethany Commandery, No. 29, K. T., of Creston, Iowa, and Moila Temple of the Mystic Shrine at St. Joseph, Missouri. He is also connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and with the Maccabees. His political allegiance is given to no party, for he prefers to vote independently, considering the capability of the candidate rather than his party allegiance. In professional lines he is connected with the Taylor County Medical Society, the Iowa State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. While he is known as a capable physician of wide professional learning, he is also recognized as a successful business man in other directions. He is now a heavy stockholder in the Orogrande Smelting Company, of Orogrande, New Mexico, and he owns about a thousand acres of fine farming land in Taylor county, together with city property in Bedford, where he resides. On his old home place at Platteville he has one of the largest herds of elk in the state. He takes great delight in the fine appearance of his country estate and in the control of his business affairs he displays the keen judgment



and clear discernment which are ever essential to progress in business lines. He is an alert, enterprising man—a typical representative of the progressive spirit of the west—and one whose appreciation of social amenities also renders him popular.

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#### LOEY HEMENOVER.

Loey Hemenover, who carries on general agricultural pursuits on section 12, Ross township, manifests a persistent and energetic spirit in his business affairs that has brought him a substantial degree of success, making him the owner of eighty acres of rich and productive land, which is situated about three and a half miles from Bedford. He has lived in Taylor county since 1875 and is a native son of the middle west, his birth having occurred in Prairie City, Fulton county, Illinois, on the 22d of August, 1857. His father, D. C. Hemenover, was a native of Michigan and was married in Fulton, Illinois, to Miss Elizabeth Hunt. He began farming in Illinois and four of his children were born in that state. He afterward removed to Iowa, settling in Taylor county, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits in Clayton township until his removal to Des Moines. His first wife died in Morris, Illinois, and he later married again. His children were: Loey, of this review; Frank, now living in Nebraska; Harry, who died in Taylor county at the age of sixteen years; and Ona, the wife of Jack Parlan, of Chicago.

Loey Hemenover was reared to the age of sixteen years in Fulton county, Illinois, and then removed to Knox county, settling near Abingdon. He began earning his own livelihood when but nine years of age, being employed at farm labor. As a young man he went to Colorado, where he worked in the mines, engaged in teaming and did anything that would yield him an honest living. After two years spent in the west he made his way from Colorado to Bedford, Iowa, but after a year returned to Colorado, where he again spent two years. On the expiration of that period he once more came to Taylor county and two years later he went to Council Bluffs, where he was employed in the gas house for two years. He afterward went to Mills county, Iowa, where he worked on a ranch in the employ of one man for seven years, his long continuance in that position being positive proof of his capability, fidelity and the trust reposed in him.

Mr. Hemenover was married in Bedford on the 16th of February, 1883, to Miss Ida Beall, a native of Taylor county and a daughter of Jared Beall, one of the pioneers of this locality. Following their marriage the young couple began their domestic life in Monona county, Iowa, on a rented farm, which Mr. Hemenover cultivated for eight years, after which he returned to Taylor county and settled in Clayton township, where he rented land for two or three years. He afterward spent two years in the gas house at Council Bluffs and later he bought a farm in Clayton township, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits for six years. In 1907 he disposed of that property and bought his present farm, on which he located in the spring of 1908. He has a good residence here, substantial outbuildings, and altogether a well-improved place. He is diligent and persistent in his work and his success has come as the direct reward of his own labors.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hemenover have been born three children: Ona, the wife of W. J. Moore, a resident farmer of Clayton township, by whom she has one child, Hazel; Court D., who is proving an able assistant to his father in carrying on the home farm; and Edna, who died when about five years of age.

Politically Mr. Hemenover is a democrat and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day, although he does not seek nor desire public office. His wife is a member of the East Mission church and Mr. Hemenover belongs to Emerson Lodge, A. F. & A. M. His record proves what can be accomplished by energy and determination, for steadily he has worked his way upward and although he started out empty-handed at the age of nine years he is now comfortably situated in life, with a good farm that yields to him a gratifying annual income.

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#### WILLIAM F. EVANS.

Taylor county has been signally favored in the class of men who have occupied her public offices, for on the whole they have been loyal to her best interests, seeking the public good rather than personal aggrandizement and placing the welfare of the community before partisanship. Of this class William F. Evans is a worthy representative and is now making a creditable record as county treasurer.

He was born in Fountain county, Indiana, April 25, 1840, his parents being John and Catherine (Bristow) Evans, who were natives of Virginia and Ohio, respectively. The paternal grandfather, Jesse Evans, was also born in Virginia and was of Welsh descent. He devoted his life to farming and on removing from the Old Dominion took up his abode in Fountain county, Indiana, where he was connected with the early agricultural development. There he died at the age of seventy-six years, while his wife was also seventy-six years of age at the time of her demise, which occurred in Covington, Indiana.

Their family numbered seven sons, including John Evans, who was reared to the work of the fields and was always a farmer. He became an early resident of Indiana, arriving in that state in 1831, and in 1856 he came to Taylor county, Iowa, reaching his destination on the 12th of March. Here he purchased a farm of four hundred acres in Benton township. He established his home in Benton township and there reared his family but in later years took up his abode in the city of Bedford, where he lived retired from about 1875 until his death, which occurred in 1893 when he was about eighty-two years of age. His wife had died in 1864 in the faith of the Baptist church, in which both were members. Following her death Mr. Evans wedded Miss Hannah Propst, who still survives him. The children of the first marriage were nine in number, three sons and six daughters: William F.; Margaret J.; the wife of J. C. Turner, of Bedford, Iowa; Jesse J., now deceased; Euphelia, the wife of Henry E. May, of Bedford; James A., also of that place; Sarah C., the wife of William E. Smith, of Smithfield, Missouri; Ellen, the wife of Rev. R. Campbell, of Oskaloosa, Iowa; Ada C., the



wife of Ed C. Thompson, of Benton township; and Delilah, the wife of M. G. Maxwell, of Mount Ayr.

As a farm boy William F. Evans spent the days of his boyhood and youth, early becoming familiar with the work incident to the development of the fields and the cultivation of the crops. When he had reached his majority his father gave him eighty acres of land and he engaged in farming in Benton township until 1872, while he carefully tilled the fields and in consequence gathered good harvests. He did not confine his attention exclusively to the operation of his farm, for in 1872 he was elected county auditor and served for four years. He was appointed postmaster of Bedford and filled that position for four years. In 1880 he was again elected county treasurer and continued to serve there for four years, retiring from the office as he had entered it—with the confidence and good will of all concerned. When he had put aside official duties he engaged in the grocery business in Bedford with his brother Jesse J., but his fellow-townsmen were not content that he should relinquish all public service and in 1903 he was again elected county treasurer, which office he still holds. He has thus been again and again chosen as the custodian of the public funds and no higher testimonial of his efficiency and fidelity could be given. No public trust reposed in him has been betrayed in the slightest degree and on the contrary his record is one over which there falls not the least shadow of wrong nor suspicion of evil. In addition to his other public duties he acted as secretary of the Taylor County Agricultural Society for twelve consecutive years.

There is another chapter in the life history of Mr. Evans that is most creditable—that concerning his military experience. On the 9th of August, 1862, when the country was engaged in civil war, he offered his aid to the government, enlisting in Company F, Twenty-ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, with which he remained for three years, being mustered out August 9, 1865. He enlisted as a private, was afterward made orderly sergeant and was mustered out with the rank of second lieutenant. He participated in the battles of Helena and Saline River and was also in many skirmishes. Never for an instant did he falter in the performance of his duty as he defended the old flag—the symbol of a united nation.

When Mr. Evans went to the front he bade adieu to his bride of but a few months for he had been married on the 13th of February, 1862, to Miss Amanda Lewis, a daughter of William and Mary J. (Van Meter) Lewis. Three sons were born of that marriage: Charles I., Omer L and Arthur B, all living in Parsons, Kansas. The former, an engineer on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad, married Miss Gertie Bundy, by whom he has one living child, May. Omer L., who is engaged in the grocery business, wedded Catharine Ryan and they have a daughter, Leone. Arthur B. is timekeeper for the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad shops at Parsons, Kansas. He married Bertha Crew and they have one daughter, Dorothy. Mrs. W. F. Evans died in 1905 at the age of sixty-one years, passing away in the faith of the Baptist church, of which she was a devoted member. Later Mr. Evans married again, his second union being with Mrs. Elizabeth McCracken, the widow of Thomas McCracken and a sister of his first wife.

Mr. Evans holds membership in the Baptist church and thus cooperates in the moral improvement of the community. He also belongs to Sedgwick Post,

No. 10, G. A. R., while his political allegiance is given to the republican party, which was the defense of the Union during the dark days of the Civil war and has always been the party of reform and progress. He is one of its leading representatives in Taylor county, loyal to its principles and interested in its work. He stands as one of the foremost citizens of this part of the state, honored and respected by all who know him—and his acquaintance in Taylor county is a very wide one.

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#### W. D. McMASTER.

W. D. McMaster, a prosperous and representative agriculturist of Polk township, is numbered among the worthy native sons of Taylor county, his birth having occurred on the old family homestead in Polk township. His parents were J. C. and Sarah A. (Thompson) McMaster and a sketch of the father, who is now deceased, appears on another page of this volume. Mr. McMaster, of this review, attended the district schools in his youthful days and early in life also became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist, giving his father the benefit of his services in the cultivation of the home farm. The work of the fields has claimed his attention throughout his entire business career, and he is now residing on a farm in Polk township which was given him by his father. He utilizes the most practical and progressive methods in the conduct of his agricultural interests and has won that measure of success which is ever the reward of earnest, untiring and well-directed labor.

Mr. McMaster has been married twice. On the 1st of January, 1884, he was joined in wedlock to Miss May A. Eggers, a daughter of Mathew Eggers, of Taylor county, by whom he had three children, namely: Evert and Roy, who are residents of Idaho; and Charles, at home. The wife and mother was called to her final rest on the 9th of May, 1887, and in April, 1894, Mr. McMaster was again married, his second union being with Miss Olive Lewis, a daughter of V. P. Lewis and a resident of Hopkins, Missouri. The children born unto them are four in number, as follows: Glenn, Ruth, Ernest and Mary, all of whom are still under the parental roof. Mr. McMaster is well known and highly esteemed throughout the county where he has resided from his birth to the present time, his many good traits of character having won him the confidence and respect of all with whom he has been associated.

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#### W. R. WILDMAN.

W. R. Wildman, living on section 33, Gay township, is one of the public-spirited citizens of his part of the county and his devotion to the general good is recognized by his fellow-townsmen, who have called him to local office. At the present writing, in 1909, he is serving as township clerk. Taylor county numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred December 1, 1878, on the old homestead farm which adjoins the place he is now cultivating. He is a son of



William Wildman who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. The old homestead was the scene of his youthful activities as he indulged in the sports in which most boys take part and performed such duties as were assigned him by parental authority. His educational advantages were those offered by the common schools and when not busy with his text-book he assisted his father, remaining at home until he had attained his majority. On the 15th of March, 1905, in Jackson township, he was united in marriage to Miss Gertrude Turner, a native of this county, born in Gay township and a daughter of J. A. Turner of Clayton township. Following their marriage Mr. Wildman rented land and now has charge of two hundred and eighty acres, known as the Hickenlooper farm. He is prospering in his undertakings, doing a successful business in fattening and feeding stock, his specialty being hogs, of which he sells a large number annually.

Mr. Wildman has always given his political support to the democracy and was elected and served for two terms, or four years, as assessor of Gay township. In 1908 he was elected township clerk and is filling the position at the present time. No public trust reposed in him has ever been betrayed in the slightest degree and he regards a public office as a public trust. He is a young man of good business ability and upright character who has the confidence and esteem of the community, both because of his business integrity and the excellent record which he has made as a public official.

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#### WALTER H. LAKE.

Walter H. Lake, filling the position of county auditor and maintaining his residence in Bedford, was born near Conway, in Taylor county, Iowa, March 5, 1878. His parents were Albert E. and Sarah L. (Reed) Lake, both of whom are natives of Massachusetts. The Lake family was established in that state at an early day. The paternal grandfather, John B. Lake, was born in Massachusetts, served his country as a Union soldier in the Civil war and died some time afterward as the result of a wound sustained in that conflict. His widow, Mrs. Amelia H. Lake, died when well advanced in years. They had a family of four children, three sons and a daughter. The maternal grandfather of our subject was likewise a native of Massachusetts and died in the east. His widow long survived him and after his death became Mrs. Wheelock.

Albert E. Lake was reared in the state of his nativity and became a book-keeper in the east. About 1876 he removed from Boston to Iowa and settled on a farm near Conway. A year or two later, however, he abandoned agricultural pursuits and engaged in general merchandising in Conway, where he successfully conducted his store for ten years. His fellow-townsmen, appreciative of his worth, then called him to public office and for four years he filled the position of county treasurer, making a creditable record in that capacity, so that he won high encomiums from the leading citizens of the entire county. He is now a resident of Bedford and the secretary of the Bedford Creamery. In all of his official service his record has been characterized by the utmost loyalty and devotion to duty. He served as mayor of Conway for two terms and is now a member

of the Bedford city council. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist church and their sterling characteristics have gained them a firm hold on the affection and regard of friends and associates. Their family numbered but two sons, the younger being Harry C. Lake.

Walter H. Lake, the elder son, was reared in Conway and attended the public schools there, after which he was graduated on the completion of the business course in the Western Normal College. He remained there until 1895, after which he engaged in clerking in his father's store for a short time. His next situation was that of an assistant cashier in the Conway Exchange Bank and in 1900 he was called to the office of deputy county treasurer, serving in that position under appointment of his father for three years. He was afterward engaged in general merchandising in Conway for a short time and then took a position as assistant cashier in the Citizens Bank of Bedford, where he remained for three years. During all this period in his business connections and in his official service, he was giving proof of his trustworthiness and his unfaltering spirit of loyalty, and in 1906 his fellow-townsmen evidenced their appreciation of his good qualities by electing him county auditor, in which position he is now serving. He has always been a republican and in addition to his other official duties he acted for a short time as city clerk of Conway.

On the 20th of August, 1906, Mr. Lake was married to Miss Eva Carr, a daughter of James A. and Martha E. Carr. Mrs. Lake was born in Decatur county, Iowa, and is a member of the Christian church, and Mr. Lake is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Bedford. Mr. Lake belongs to Taylor Lodge, No. 156, A. F. & A. M., of which he is a past master; to Triangle Chapter, R. A. M., in which he is serving as high priest; and to Bethany Commandery, K. T., of Crescent, Iowa. He is likewise connected with Kaaba Temple of the Mystic Shrine and with Bedford Lodge, No. 91, I. O. O. F. He is a man of social, genial nature and his many sterling qualities have made him one of the substantial and honored citizens of the county. That he is regarded as a man of genuine worth is indicated by the trust reposed in him in his election to public office.

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#### WILLIAM LEONARD.

William Leonard, a successful farmer residing on section 18, Grove township, was born upon the family homestead in this county, November 2, 1857. His father, Daniel Leonard, was one of the very early settlers of this section of the state, an extended account of his life appearing elsewhere in this volume. William Leonard received his education in the district schools and remained at home until he was about twenty-nine years of age, when he married and started in life for himself. For a number of years he farmed on eighty acres of his father's land, which in his childhood he had helped to clear. Indeed, he can remember some of the hardships of the early years which had not been entirely overcome when he was old enough to assist in the work. Until 1903 he operated his father's land in Holt township, and then he bought his present farm, which has since been his home. It consists of one hundred and seventy-eight acres, all well improved,



and here he is engaged in general farming. In addition to his agricultural interests he is interested with his father and brothers in the sheep business, importing and breeding Shropshire sheep, in which they were the pioneers in this state.

On the 13th of February, 1887, Mr. Leonard was united in marriage to Miss Alice Claybaugh, who was born in Illinois, January 28, 1866, and is one of a family of fourteen children, nine of whom are still living. Her parents, Henry and Ann Elizabeth (Kyle) Claybaugh, are natives of Ohio and are now residents of Dallas township, Taylor county, Iowa, where they have made their home since 1871. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, namely: Eva Irene, Ethel May, one who died in infancy, Henry H., Jennie Elizabeth, Lottie Opal, Lloyd Leslie and Lee William. Lottie Opal died at the age of seven years. Eva Irene is now the wife of Lon Boltinghouse, of Holt township.

The family are members of the Christian church and Mr. Leonard gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He takes considerable interest in local affairs, having filled the positions of constable, road supervisor, trustee and school director. His administrations have always been distinguished by strict adherence to duty and by a patent efficiency. This quality is also noticeable in his farming. Progressive in his ideas he is also thorough in the execution of his work and no task is left half finished. In consequence he has attained a success that is beyond the average.

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#### J. E. ANDERSON.

In a history of those men who, through their activity along agricultural lines have contributed in large and substantial measure to the development and improvement of Taylor county, mention should be made of J. E. Anderson, familiarly known as "Uncle Jimmie," a pioneer farmer and stock dealer of this county. For more than a half century he has been a resident of this community and in the meantime the development of ten or twelve farms may be set down to his credit, while by reason of his extensive realty holdings he became known as one of the large landowners of Taylor county.

Born across the waters, Mr. Anderson's birth occurred in Bergen, Norway, September 5, 1829. He was reared in that country and there attended the common schools, acquiring a good knowledge of his native language. In 1851, when twenty-two years of age, he decided to try his fortune in the new world and, leaving home and friends, he embarked for the United States on a sailing vessel, the voyage covering eight weeks. The vessel was caught in a bad storm while en route, but, successfully weathering this, it cast anchor in New York Harbor in June of the same year. Mr. Anderson did not tarry in that city, however, but made his way westward to Racine, Wisconsin, where he found employment on a farm, being thus engaged for about six years. He was greatly handicapped, however, in his inability to speak the English tongue, but with characteristic energy and determination he set himself to master the new language and ere his removal from Wisconsin he had acquired a good practical knowledge of English. In 1857 he





MR. AND MRS. J. E. ANDERSON





came to Taylor county, Iowa, and with the earnings which he had carefully saved during his residence in the Badger state, he purchased two hundred acres of land in Marshall township. When this property came into his possession it was raw prairie land, but he immediately set about improving and cultivating it. First came the breaking of the soil and then followed the processes of plowing and planting, while in due course of time rich harvests were gathered.

When he felt that his success justified such a course, Mr. Anderson laid the foundation for a home of his own by his marriage, in January, 1861, to Miss Mary Haun, who was born in Kentucky and when a little maid of ten summers came to Taylor county. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson began their domestic life on this farm, in a frame house which he had previously built. He was untiring in his industry and as the years passed and he continued to prosper in his undertakings, he invested in more land, from time to time adding to his property holdings until he became a very extensive landowner, possessing at one time about twenty-one hundred acres located in Taylor and Adams counties, a large portion of which he has since given to his children. He engaged in general agricultural pursuits and in connection therewith carried on a large and profitable business in raising and feeding, buying and shipping stock. He purchased stock in Texas and New Mexico and became known throughout the county as a most successful buyer and shipper. Aside from the land which he owned in Iowa, he also possessed considerable property in Kansas and Missouri and had a half interest in about eleven hundred acres constituting a stock ranch in the former state. Altogether he has improved about ten or twelve farms, and his entire career, while engaged in agricultural pursuits, was an intensely active one. Subsequently he retired from farm life and, renting the home farm, he removed to Bedford, where he became identified with mercantile interests, engaging in the dry goods and hardware business in that city for about ten years. He later came to Conway, where he also engaged in the dry goods, hardware, lumber and grain business for a number of years and was very successful in this line of activity. He has now, however, given up active labor and is enjoying in well-earned rest the fruits of his former toil.

In 1908 Mr. Anderson was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who passed away on the 27th of March, and her death was the occasion of widespread regret on the part of a large number of warm friends. In addition to her husband, six children survive her, three sons and three daughters, namely: J. Oscar, a farmer of Mason township, this county; A. A., a partner of J. O. in his farming pursuits; Oliver, a prominent stock raiser, breeder and dealer, making a specialty of pure blooded Percheron and Belgian horses, who is also the president of the Conway Savings Bank; Cora, who resides at home with her father; Nora, the wife of Lewis Larson, a resident farmer of Gay township; and Minnie, the wife of Jacob Spring, of Adams county, Iowa. One son, Thomas, passed away October 29, 1908, after he had reached the age of twenty-eight years.

Mr. Anderson was for many years a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and was formerly superintendent of the Sunday-school for some time. In politics he is a republican where national issues are concerned, but at local elections he prefers to cast an independent ballot, voting for the men who in his estimation are best fitted to fill the positions. He has never sought nor desired



office, but at the solicitation of friends and neighbors he served for some years as road supervisor and also as school director. He is public spirited in his citizenship, never withholding his cooperation from any measure which has for its object the material, intellectual or moral welfare of the community. He has never regretted his determination to come to the new world, for in this country where advancement is unhampered by caste or class he has met with most enviable success. Arriving here without capital, handicapped by his inability to speak the English language, he has steadily worked his way upward in the business world until he ranks among the best known, prominent and prosperous citizens of Taylor county, and he may justly lay claim to the honorable title of a self-made man. A gentleman of charitable tendencies, he has not only made and given away several fortunes but he has aided materially and substantially in the development of the communities in which he has resided. He helped to build the first schoolhouse of Bedford and also the first Methodist church of that place. He also assisted in the erection of the Methodist Episcopal church at Conway, being the principal contributor toward the building funds. He likewise assisted in the erection of a Methodist church in Ringgold county, Iowa, donating the land upon which it was built, while he has contributed toward building many other churches. He has now reached the eightieth milestone on life's journey, and his career has ever been such that, now in the evening of life, he can look back upon the past without regret and forward upon the future without fear.

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#### C. E. LONGFELLOW.

C. E. Longfellow, proprietor of the Science Ridge farm located on section 11, Jackson township, is a man of undaunted business enterprise, who closely studies his opportunities and utilizes them to the best advantage. In addition to raising the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he is well known as a stock-raiser and feeder and also breeds and deals in Chester White hogs. His life has been one of well-directed activity and, although he is a young man who has not yet completed his third decade, he is recognized as one of the leading representatives of agricultural life in this community.

A native son of Taylor county, Mr. Longfellow was born in Gay township, September 19, 1880. His father, J. P. Longfellow, also a native of this state, was born in Muscatine county, where he was reared and married, the lady of his choice being Miss Mary Elder. She, too, was a native of Muscatine county, and following their marriage they engaged in farming there for several years. About 1880 they removed to Taylor county, where Mr. Longfellow purchased land and carried on farming, his place being located in Gay township, where he reared his family. He now resides in Oklahoma and is engaged in business there as a contractor and builder.

C. E. Longfellow was reared to manhood in Gay and Jefferson townships and pursued his education in the schools of Platteville. He remained with his father until he had attained his majority and, starting in life for himself, he chose as a companion and helpmate for the journey Miss Mary Streebin, whom he wedded



on the 31st of January, 1900, who was born and reared in Jackson township, this county, and is a daughter of Chris Streebin, one of the early settlers and prominent farmers of this section of the state. After their marriage they located on the farm where they now reside. Mr. Longfellow bought out the Streebin heirs and became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres, while in 1909 he purchased one hundred and twenty acres adjoining, making a farm of two hundred and eighty acres of the valuable, rich and productive land of southwestern Iowa. His home is a large dwelling which he erected and which is built in modern style of architecture. In the rear stands a good barn and the dwelling is surrounded by a neat and well-kept lawn enclosed within a garden fence. There is also a good orchard on the place and altogether the farm is a well-improved and valuable property. In the pastures and feed lots are seen high grades of Shorthorn cattle, Chester White hogs and good horses and in the autumn the granaries and cribs are filled with grain which has been harvested and the capacity of the hay loft is also taxed to the utmost. An air of neatness and thrift pervades the place, indicating the practical and progressive labors of the owner.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Longfellow have been born two sons, Roy C. and Harry N. The parents attend the Baptist church and Mr. Longfellow is one of the school officers, doing all that he can to promote the cause of education. His political allegiance is given to the republican party. He has been a resident of this county throughout his entire life and is well known in this section of the state, where he has so lived and labored as to win the high regard and unqualified confidence of all who know him. His record has been one of diligence and perseverance and that his labors have been well directed is indicated in the fact that he is now the owner of the Science Ridge farm.

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#### HON. A. J. SOWERS.

The tendency of the times is decidedly toward the selection for public office of men of tried worth, who have given evidence of their ability in business life and who have proven their devotion of the public welfare by loyalty to all those measures and movements which are instituted for the general good. It was because of these things that Hon. A. J. Sowers was called to represent his district in the state legislature and to serve in various local capacities of honor and trust. He is preeminently a man of affairs and one who has wielded a wide influence. His activity in commercial lines has been a resultant factor in Bedford's upbuilding and development, and he is now well known throughout the county as a dealer in agricultural implements and vehicles.

Mr. Sowers was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, May 1, 1846, his parents being John G. and Sarah (Hahn) Sowers. The father was a native of Pennsylvania and of English descent. In early manhood he prepared for the practice of medicine and for many years was widely known as a successful and competent physician. In 1846 he removed westward to Illinois, settling at Naperville, where he died in 1849 at the comparatively early age of thirty-eight years. He had, however, during that period demonstrated his ability to successfully cope



with the intricate problems that continually confront the physician and was one of the valued and prominent pioneers of the medical profession in that part of the state. His wife survived him for only about a year and died at the age of thirty-eight in the faith of the Episcopal church, of which both were members. She was a native of Pennsylvania and of Welsh lineage. In their family were ten children, five sons and five daughters but only three are now living: Andrew J.; Mary L., the widow of John Dinges, of Bedford; and Frances A., the widow of Robert Reid and a resident of Portland, Oregon.

Following the death of his parents which occurred when he was only about four years of age, A. J. Sowers went to live with his uncle, the Rev. J. Crouse, at Bucyrus, Ohio, where he was reared. He there attended the public and high schools and, aroused by the continued attempt of the south to overthrow the Union, he enlisted in 1862 as a private of Company K, Eighty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served through the summer, although he was but sixteen years of age at the time. In the spring of 1864 he reenlisted as a member of the One Hundred and Thirty-sixth Ohio Regiment and did duty as a sergeant with that command until the succeeding fall.

After the war Mr. Sowers engaged in clerking in a dry-goods store in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, for a brief period but in the spring of 1865 came to Bedford, Iowa, and soon afterward engaged in farming and teaming. In 1869 he turned his attention to the implement and vehicle business, in which he has since continued, covering a period of forty years. He carries an extensive stock, occupying a large building and enjoys a very gratifying and constantly growing business. Throughout the entire period he has been most careful in conforming his course to a high standard of commercial ethics, not because he believes such a course to be the best policy but because he believes it to be right. He has never been known to take advantage of the necessities of another in business transactions but has placed his dependence upon the substantial qualities of close application, unfaltering enterprise and progressive methods. In 1907 he erected what is known as the A. J. Sowers block which is sixty-six by one hundred and twenty-six feet and is one of the leading business structures of the city. It is now occupied by his implement business, the Fair store, a real-estate office and a barber shop.

In all of his public relations Mr. Sowers has made an equally creditable record. He is a stalwart republican and for several years was chairman of the county central committee. He was the first mayor of the city of Bedford, served for several terms as a member of the city council and in all such relations has exercised his official prerogatives in support of movements which have been directly beneficial to the city. Further political honors came to him in his election to the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth general assemblies and while thus representing his district he was connected with much important legislation which proved of substantial worth to the state. Outside of political connections, too, he has done effective work for the benefit of Bedford. He served in 1907 as president of the Bedford Commercial Club, the object of which is to induce business enterprises and factories to locate here and thus promote the growth of the town. He has also been the vice-president and the president of the Iowa Implement Dealers Association and has thus labored to promote general trade relations.



On the 6th of January, 1875, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Sowers and Miss Olive I. Carson, a daughter of Joseph S. and Phoebe (Vaughn) Carson, of Marion, Linn county, Iowa. Unto them have been born four children, two sons and two daughters: Fay Irene, Donald J., William Lee and Edna. Fay Irene is now the wife of Clarence Orth, of Bedford, while Donald is a merchant at Tamaha, Oklahoma, and William Lee is professor of English and Latin at Hanover, Indiana. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sowers are Presbyterians in religious faith and he is serving as a deacon in the church in which they hold membership. He is also connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Yeomen. His life history constitutes an integral chapter in the records of Bedford, where he has now lived for more than four decades, closely associated, throughout the pioneer period, with the material, intellectual, social, political and moral progress of the community.

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#### GUY R. AKEY.

Guy R. Akey is one of the younger representatives of farming interests in Taylor county, owning a well improved tract on section 20, Marshall township. He was born in Linn county, Iowa, December 30, 1871, the only son of William and Sidney (Hubbard) Akey. The father, a native of Ireland, accompanied his parents to the new world during his boyhood days, the family home being established in Wayne county, Ohio, where the son was reared to mature years. He learned and followed the cabinetmaker's trade there and was married September 23, 1856, to Miss Sidney Hubbard, who was born and reared in Portage county, a daughter of Rev. Stephen Hubbard, a minister of the Methodist church. Soon after his marriage William Akey moved to Williams county, Ohio, and took up farming, which he followed there for nine years. Subsequently he sought a home farther west and finding a suitable location in Linn county, Iowa, bought land there in 1865. He improved the place by the erection of a good country residence and substantial outbuildings, set out a grove and orchard and made it a good property. After a residence of nine years in Linn county he sold his property there and purchased land in Taylor county, becoming owner of eighty acres in Washington township. He also made many improvements on this place and continued to cultivate the soil until 1895, when he rented his land and removed to Gravity, where he had prepared a comfortable home in which to spend his remaining days in retirement. He was not permitted to enjoy his new home for a very long period, however, for his death occurred March 13, 1896.

It will be seen that William Akey had much to do with the development of the farming interests of various sections of Iowa, but with the interests of Taylor county he was identified for many years. He came here when much of the land was still in a wild state and when the homes of the settlers were widely scattered. As the years passed others came in and claimed land by purchase and this district became one of the thriving centers of this great state. His energy was often at the service of his community and he had the love and respect of all among whom he lived. In daily life he was genial and affable. Intelligence and goodness were



his decisions of merit and neither love nor power would make him oblivious to principles of right and duty. Thus his death caused a great loss to the community, in which he had long lived and labored.

Guy R. Akey is the only son of the family, his sister being Edna, the wife of Arthur Hamblin, of Washington township, Taylor county. The son was a little lad of three years when the family removed from Linn to Taylor county, so that he was practically reared here. As he grew in years added duties were assigned him in the work of the home farm and he thus became well qualified to carry on work on his own account in later years. After the death of the father the mother disposed of her farming property and her town property in Gravity and she and the son removed to Phillips county, Colorado, where they purchased one hundred and sixty acres of raw land besides residence property in Holyoke. After a brief period of two years, however, they disposed of their interests in the west and returned once more to Taylor county, where the son and mother bought their present farm of eighty acres, located on section 20, Marshall township, his mother residing with him. Mr. Akey is most enterprising in his work and each year his labors are rewarded by the harvesting of excellent crops.

Mr. Akey is a democrat in his political views and affiliations. He is busily engaged with his business affairs and has attained a success that many a one of much older years might well envy.

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#### SAMUEL J. KEY.

Samuel J. Key occupies a foremost place among the substantial, progressive and well-to-do citizens of Grove township, who, entirely through their own unaided efforts, have risen from a humble position to a place of prominence and affluence in business circles. A native of North Carolina, he was born in Surry county on the 17th of November, 1865, and is a son of A. S. and Ellen (Whittaker) Key. When but a child his parents moved to Indiana and later to Illinois, locating in Peoria county, where they resided for about two years, and then, in 1880, came to Taylor county, Iowa, the father here purchasing a place upon which a permanent home was established. On that farm the family was reared and there the parents continued to make their home until two years ago, but now live in Marshall township.

Samuel J. Key was a lad of fourteen years when he arrived in Taylor county with his parents, and his education which had been begun in the schools of Indiana and Illinois, was completed in the district schools near his father's home in this county. Upon the home farm he was reared to manhood and when not busy with his text-books assisted in the operation of the farm, continuing to give his father the benefit of his labors until attaining his majority. Then, being desirous of entering the business world for himself, he wisely chose as his life work the occupation to which he had been reared and became identified with agricultural pursuits on his own account as a renter, operating a farm in that capacity for one year. He was married on the 15th of March, 1888, to Miss Rose Gaudard, a native of Illinois, who was reared in Adams county, Iowa.



After his marriage Mr. Key again operated a rented farm for several years, at the end of which time, desiring that his efforts should more directly benefit himself, he purchased eighty acres of land, upon which he resided for one year. He then sold that property at a good advance over the purchase price, and invested in a larger farm, becoming the owner of one hundred and ten acres. The following year he purchased an adjoining tract of forty acres and two years later bought a farm of eighty acres in Holt township, which he leased. Subsequently he sold one of his farms and invested in the old Gordon farm of two hundred and twenty acres in Grove township, later adding forty acres adjoining. He continued in the cultivation of that property for about six years, and then sold out and purchased the farm of two hundred and forty acres upon which he now resides and to the further development of which he has since directed his efforts. It is located on section 27, Grove township, and under his wise and careful management has become one of the most highly improved properties in the township. In its midst stands a neat and attractive two-story residence, two good barns and substantial outbuildings, including a double crib, tool house and scales, all in first class condition. The place is equipped with all of the modern accessories and conveniences for facilitating labor, and nothing is lacking that goes to make up a model farm of the twentieth century. He also owns a tract of one hundred and fifteen acres near the old home farm, all blue grass pasture land, and another farm of two hundred and forty acres west of Lenox, likewise under a high state of cultivation. He is one of the extensive stockraisers and feeders of the township, fattening a large amount of stock annually, and the ready sale and good prices which his product commands upon the market are a source of gratifying remuneration to him.

With the passing of the years the home of Mr. and Mrs. Key has been blessed with three children, Ethel, Leroy L. and Russell D., all still under the parental roof, the family being unbroken by the hand of death. The entire family are members of the Blue Grove Christian church, of which Mr. Key is serving as a deacon, while his wife and daughter are actively and helpfully interested in Sunday-school work. Public-spirited in his citizenship, he gives his political allegiance to the democratic party on all national issues, but in local affairs reserves the right of casting his ballot for the best man, regardless of party ties. He has served as a member of the town board for several years and has been identified with the schools for some time, serving first as director and later as president of the board, the cause of education ever finding in him a stanch champion. He is at present serving efficiently as township trustee, and in every office to which he has been elected has performed his public duties in a most thorough, faithful and entirely satisfactory manner, at all times manifesting in his official capacity the same thoroughness as characterized his business career. Thus he has been called to various positions of honor and trust, showing that he occupies a high place in public regard and enjoys in large measure the confidence of his fellowmen. He possesses good business ability, excellent judgment and keen discrimination, and although starting out in life as a poor young man, with no capital except brains, energy, integrity and good health, he has made continuous progress in the business world until today he is one of the extensive landowners and large stockdealers in the township, possessing about six hundred acres of



valuable land in three different farms. He is truly a self-made man in the broadest sense of the term and the consensus of public opinion accords him a prominent place among the representative and valued citizens of Grove township.

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#### DANIEL MITCHELL WOODFILL.

Among those who have sought their fortunes in agricultural lines and through their energy, industry and well-directed efforts are meeting with a most substantial and gratifying success, is numbered Daniel Mitchell Woodfill, one of the most prominent and representative farmers and stock raisers of Marshall township. Born in Jefferson county, Indiana, on the 22d of May, 1843, he belongs to a family of Welsh origin, which has long been identified with American interests, having been founded in this country in early colonial days by Joseph Woodfill, a native of Wales, who came to the new world about 1755 and located in Pennsylvania on land upon which a portion of the city of Philadelphia now stands. To him all representatives of the name in America trace their ancestry. He was the father of four sons and two daughters, the sons being Joseph, Gabriel, Daniel and John. Of this number Daniel became the father of John Woodfill, the grandfather of the subject of this review. John Woodfill was fired upon and killed by Indians in ambush, while one daughter and two children also met death at the hands of the red men.

Andrew Woodfill, a son of John Woodfill and the father of our subject, was born near New Castle, Henry county, Kentucky, on the 27th of May, 1806. Early in life he accompanied his parents on their removal to Indiana, where he was reared in Jefferson county. He married Mary Sebourn Ryker, a native of Shelby county, Kentucky, and a daughter of Gerardus Ryker. Her mother, who bore the maiden name of Smock, traced her ancestry back to Hendrick Smock, a titled Hollander, who renounced his title and left his native land on account of religious persecution. After his marriage Andrew Woodfill opened up a farm in Jefferson county, Indiana, and there reared his family. He continued to make that his home until his demise, residing upon that farm for fifty-two years. His death occurred in 1888 when eighty-two years of age, while his wife, surviving him about four years, passed away at the age of eighty-one. Their family consisted of six sons and four daughters, all of whom reached years of maturity, while three of that number still survive: Daniel Mitchell, our subject; Horace C., a younger brother, who owns and operates the old home farm; and Leah, the wife of J. M. Epperson, of Martinsville, Indiana.

Amid the scenes and environment of farm life in Indiana Daniel M. Woodfill spent the period of his boyhood and youth, and in the schools of his native county received excellent educational advantages, passing through the consecutive grades of the common schools until his graduation from high school, while later he supplemented this training by an academic course. When not busy with his text-books he assisted his father in the work of the home farm and in the broader school of experience learned many lessons concerning the value of industry, integrity and perseverance, which well equipped him for the respon-





DANIEL M. WOODFILL





sible and practical duties of life. He remained under the parental roof until the outbreak of the Civil war, when, imbued with a spirit of patriotism, on the 26th of August, 1861, he joined Company A, Sixth Regiment of Indiana Infantry, with the rank of sergeant and color bearer. He participated in many of the important battles of the war, including Shiloh, Stone River, Resaca, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge and took part in all of the engagements of the Atlanta campaign. He also fought in many skirmishes and was sick in the hospital at one time, although he lost no time from active service and participated in every battle in which his regiment was engaged. Throughout the term of his enlistment he served loyally and valiantly and his colors were always seen in the thickest of the fight, where they served to inspire and cheer the brave defenders of the Union. He was mustered out and honorably discharged in September, 1864, and returned home with a most creditable military record.

When the country no longer needed his services Mr. Woodfill returned to Indiana, where he was engaged in teaching school during several winter terms, proving himself a very efficient and capable instructor, readily imparting to others the knowledge which he himself had acquired. Deciding, however, that agricultural pursuits would be more congenial and profitable, he took up farming as a renter and was thus engaged until the spring of 1870, when he came to Iowa, locating in Taylor county, where he purchased eighty acres of land, which tract formed the nucleus of his present extensive possessions. The farm at that time contained a small house and was but partially improved, but with characteristic energy he set about its further development and soon brought the fields under a high state of cultivation. He was systematic, methodical and progressive in his methods, and his farming interests were so wisely and carefully conducted that he won substantial success with the passing of the years, enabling him to add to his original holdings from time to time until eventually he had four hundred and forty acres in his home farm. The original dwelling has given place to a fine new residence equipped with all of the modern conveniences and accessories, while in the rear stand two large barns, an ice house, a carriage shed and other commodious and substantial outbuildings. He has set out a large orchard of about twenty acres, including fourteen acres of Ben Davis apples, while about four acres are devoted to selected fruits for home use. The farm is kept in excellent condition and is equipped with everything that goes to make up a model farm of the twentieth century. In connection with his general farming he gives considerable attention to raising and feeding stock for the market, in 1908 fattening three carloads of cattle and two carloads of hogs. Both branches of his business, the raising of grain and the raising of stock, are substantial sources of income and he also owns another farm of two hundred and forty acres located about a mile south of the homestead, the rental of which is an additional source of revenue.

It was on the 17th of October, 1867, that Mr. Woodfill was united in marriage in Decatur county, Indiana, to Miss Susan Caroline Hamilton, whose birth occurred in that county. No children came to bless their union, but they took into their home a nephew, Jesse M. Green, and a niece, Mary Ellen Green. Both



married and the former now makes his home in Oklahoma, while the latter is now deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodfill are faithful and prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Gravity, in which he is serving as trustee, and he keeps up pleasant relations with his old army comrades through his membership in Bedford Post, G. A. R. Politically he gave his allegiance to the republican party until 1896, since which time he has been independent in his views, reserving the right to vote for the men and measures which in his estimation are best adapted to conserve the public welfare. He served as assessor for several years and also as township trustee, and was sent by his party as a delegate to various state and county conventions. Preeminently a man of business, he has, entirely through his own well-directed efforts and honorable methods, gained a foremost place among the agriculturists and business men of Taylor county, within whose borders he has made his home for almost four decades. He is numbered among the early settlers of the county, arriving at a time when the city of Bedford was little more than a cross-roads village, and during the period of his residence here has been closely and helpfully identified with the development and improvement of the district, taking an active part in the work of transformation that has been going on. His influence is at all times on the side of progress, advancement and reform, and in all matters of citizenship he is ever as loyal to the interests of the country as when carrying the old flag on southern battlefields. He is a man of many friends, for the cordial hospitality of his home is freely extended to everyone and the honorable and upright principles which have ever governed his actions have won for him the esteem, respect, confidence and good will of everyone with whom he has come in contact.

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#### ALEXANDER H. COCHRAN.

Alexander H. Cochran, who has been actively and successfully identified with the farming and stock-raising interests of Taylor county for more than a quarter of a century, is now the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 27, Platte township, where he makes his home. His birth occurred in Ireland in 1837, his parents being Alexander and Elizabeth (Henry) Cochran, both of whom were natives of that country. In the year 1850 they crossed the Atlantic to the United States, settling near Quincy, Adams county, Illinois, where the father opened up a new farm and reared his family.

Alexander H. Cochran, who was a lad of thirteen years when he accompanied his parents on their emigration to the new world, grew to manhood in Adams county, Illinois, and on the 6th of June, 1861, was united in marriage to Miss Nancy Powell, a native of that place. In 1864 he removed to Hancock county, Illinois, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres on which a few improvements had been made, devoting his time and energies to its further development and improvement until 1883, when he disposed of the property and came to Taylor county, Iowa. Here he bought one hundred and sixty acres of partially improved land in Grove township, near Lenox, and gave his attention





RESIDENCE OF DANIEL M. WOODFILL





to its cultivation for about eighteen years, at the end of which time he sold the place. Subsequently he purchased a farm of eighty acres in Platte township, on which he resided for six years, bringing the fields under a high state of development and improvement. He then leased the property and made his home in Lenox for two years, on the expiration of which period he returned to his farm, residing thereon until he sold the place in 1905. He next bought the farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 27, Platte township, on which he now resides and the many substantial improvements on the property stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. In addition to his work as an agriculturist he also raises and feeds stock to some extent, making a specialty of hogs. In all of his undertakings he has won that measure of success which is ever the reward of earnest, persistent and well directed labor and he is entitled to representation among the substantial and respected citizens of the county.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Cochran were born nine children, as follows: Joseph, who follows farming in Ringgold county, Iowa; Harry, who married Josie Cabbage and resides upon and operates the home farm for his father; Mary, the wife of George Day, of Oregon; Tilla, the wife of William Short, an agriculturist of this county; Anna, the wife of John Edwards, of Lenox; Emma, who is the wife of Luther Hurley, of Lenox; Addie, who died at the age of eighteen years; Nellie, who passed away when about eight years old; and Alexander H., Jr., who died in infancy. The wife and mother was called to her final rest on the 18th of March, 1908, passing away in the faith of the Presbyterian church. Her remains were interred in Grove Center cemetery.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Cochran has given his political allegiance to the republican party but has never desired the honors and emoluments of office, preferring to devote his undivided attention to his business affairs. He is a devoted and consistent member of the Presbyterian church, exemplifying its teachings in his daily life. The period of his residence in this county now covers more than a quarter of a century and he has seen a wonderful transformation as pioneer conditions have been replaced by all the evidences of an advanced civilization. Moreover, he has not only been an interested witness but also an active participant in the work of improvement and upbuilding, having developed three farms in Taylor county. He has now passed the seventy-second milestone on life's journey and is well known and highly esteemed throughout the community as an upright and honorable citizen.

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#### OLIVER S. NASH.

Oliver S. Nash, who has won merited success in the careful conduct of his farming interests, now makes his home on section 36, Bedford township, where he owns and cultivates two hundred and forty acres of rich and arable land that in generous harvests responds to the care and labor which he gives to his fields. Moreover he is entitled to representation in this volume from the fact that he is numbered among the honored pioneer settlers of Taylor county, where he has made his home since 1853. He arrived here when a lad of twelve years, his



birth having occurred in Madison county, Indiana, February 9, 1841. His father, William Nash, was a native of Tennessee but the removal of his parents to Indiana enabled him to spend his boyhood days in Madison county, that state. He was there married to Miss Harriet Ingle, a native of Indiana, and upon a farm in that state the young couple began their domestic life, remaining there for some years. Eventually a removal was made to Missouri and, settling in Nodaway county, near the present town of Pickering, William Nash there carried on general agricultural pursuits for several years, or until 1853, when he came to Taylor county, Iowa, entering land in Jackson township. At that time few settlements had been made within the borders of the county and much of the land was still in possession of the government. The settlers had to endure many of the hardships and privations incident to the establishment of homes upon the frontier, but they were of a sturdy race and builded well for future generations. After a year William Nash removed to Bedford, where he carried on merchandising for some time. At intervals he entered more land and became the owner of several hundred acres, thus placing his capital in safe investments. His remaining days were passed in this county, his death occurring on a farm in Taylor county.

Oliver S. Nash, accompanying his parents on their removal to Missouri and thence to Iowa in his boyhood days, supplemented his early training by study in the schools of Bedford. He remained with his father until about twenty-four years of age, and was then married in Nodaway county, near the present town of Hopkins, on the 11th of December, 1864, the lady of his choice being Miss America Glendora Aldrich, a native of Scioto county, Ohio, who had come to Iowa with her parents and later became a resident of Nodaway county, Missouri. She was reared and educated in Van Buren county, Iowa, and in Nodaway county and for five years was successfully engaged in teaching.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Oliver S. Nash located on the farm where they now reside. Only a few acres had been placed under cultivation at that time and their house was a little log cabin which they occupied for ten years, when Mr. Nash erected a more commodious, modern and substantial residence. He began his farming operations here with only eighty acres of land, but as he diligently pursued his work and his financial resources were thereby increased, he kept adding to his property from time to time until he had extended the boundaries of his farm to include two hundred and forty acres of the rich prairie land of Bedford township. His place is no longer a treeless plain for upon it is a good orchard and some fine shade trees of his own planting. He has also erected modern buildings which he keeps in a state of good repair and he now has a valuable place, pleasantly located within two miles of Bedford. He has been a successful business man, winning prosperity both in the cultivation of grain and in the raising of stock. His place is now given over largely to pasture and meadow land and many herds of fine stock are seen in his pastures.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Nash has been blessed with four children. Arthur D., who was educated in Bedford and for three years was a teacher in the public schools, is now assisting in the operation of the home farm. Cora is the wife of D. C. Mohler, a prominent farmer living on the old Mohler homestead near Bedford. Archie D. is married and follows farming in Clayton township and Daisy Armada is at home. In his political views Mr. Nash is a democrat but has never



sought nor desired office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs. In his farming operations he has been very successful and has made a specialty of raising fine horses, disposing of one three-year old for fifteen hundred dollars. While active in business he has never been neglectful of the duties of citizenship and has given his aid and influence to further various beneficial public projects. He was reared in the Methodist Episcopal church, while his wife is a member of the Baptist church. For fifty-six years a resident of the county, he has seen Bedford grow from a cross-roads village to one of the thrifty cities of the state and has witnessed the transformation of wild prairie land into productive farms, making this one of the richest agricultural districts of Iowa.

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#### REV. ISAAC E. WEBB.

Rev. Isaac E. Webb, a resident farmer of Dallas township, his home being near Newmarket, is also well known as a minister of the church of the Brethren and one whose influence has been a potent factor for good in the moral as well as the material development of the community. His home farm comprises two hundred acres of land and in its development and improvement he displays good business ability and a spirit of undaunted enterprise. A native of Illinois, he was born November 19, 1840, and is a son of Robert H. and Elizabeth (Lollar) Webb. His paternal grandparents were William and Elizabeth Webb, natives of Tennessee and their family numbered the following children: Robert, William, John, Isaac, Ibby, Annie and Fannie. The maternal grandparents of Rev. Webb were Mr. and Mrs. D. Lollar, who had three children: Elizabeth, Elkanah and China.

Robert H. Webb was born in Tennessee, on the 4th of November, 1812, and having arrived at years of maturity wedded Elizabeth Lollar, whose birth occurred in the same state in 1815. After living for some time in Illinois, they removed to Iowa in October, 1842, taking up their abode in Keokuk county among its early pioneer residents. Their children were: Isaac E., William, James, John, Samuel Houston, Jacob, Jane, Susan and Fannie.

Isaac E. Webb was not quite two years of age at the time of the removal of the family from Illinois to Iowa, so that his boyhood and youth were passed in Keokuk county amid the wild scenes and environment of pioneer life. He has always been a farmer and for twenty years has been a resident of Taylor county, where his time and energies have been devoted to general agricultural pursuits. He has seen the land treble in value since he came to this county and the prices continually advancing. His own holdings comprise two hundred acres in Dallas township and the soil, which is naturally rich and fertile, responds readily to the care and labor which he bestows upon it so that he annually harvests good crops. In all of his business dealings he is thoroughly reliable and his success is well merited.

Rev. Webb is also widely known in connection with the church of the Brethren, in which he is a minister. For fourteen years he has been thus connected with the church as a minister of the second degree and has labored throughout the



district of Iowa. He was the first member of the denomination in Taylor county and was largely instrumental in organizing the church to which he belongs and which was formed in 1897. He held meetings in the schoolhouses for several years before a house of worship was bought. There are now about fifteen members constituting a progressive little flock whose influence is widely felt as a moral force in the community.

Mr. Webb was married in April, 1866, to Miss Hannah Wortman, who was born in Iowa in 1847, and is a daughter of George and Tina (Scott) Wortman and a granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Wortman. Her parents had four children: Harry H., James, William and Louisa. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Webb have been born ten children: Louisa, Nora, Lora, Ida, Minnie, John, Elmer, George, Walter and Frank. The daughters are now all married.

Mr. Webb gives his political allegiance to the democracy while his business enterprise is devoted to farming but the motive power of his life is found in his belief in Christianity which is embraced in tangible measure in his efforts in behalf of the church. His work in this connection has been far-reaching and beneficial and moreover his life record proves that success and an honorable name may be won simultaneously.

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#### FRANCIS EMERY CROSSON.

Professor Francis E. Crosson, whose close connection with the educational progress of Taylor county has constituted his life work a vital and valuable force in the development and upbuilding of this section of the state, was born December 20, 1857, in Abingdon, Knox county, Illinois. His parents were William Harvey and Asenath (Vinsonhaler) Crosson. The father was born at Blanchester, Ohio, in 1833 and in 1855, when a young man of twenty-two years, became a resident of Abingdon, Illinois, where he was married in 1856 to Miss Asenath Vinsonhaler. He engaged in farming until the outbreak of the Civil war, when he enlisted in defense of the Union as a member of Company D, First Illinois Cavalry. He participated in the battle of Lexington, Missouri, was captured by Price, and paroled in 1865. Later he crossed the plains with other gold seekers but after a year returned to Knox county, where he followed farming until 1873. In that year he brought his family to Taylor county, Iowa, and made his home upon the farm in Ross township until his death, which occurred in August, 1894. His wife was born near Hillsboro, Ohio, in 1835, and during her early girlhood accompanied her parents to Abingdon, Illinois, where she was living at the time of her marriage. Following the death of Mr. Crosson she was married, in 1898, to Asa Stowell, of Gay township, and at present lives in Clearfield, Taylor county.

Professor Crosson acquired his early education in the rural schools of Illinois and Iowa, with a short time in the Bedford high school. He then engaged in teaching for a few terms after which he had the benefit of a year's instruction in Oskaloosa College, of Oskaloosa, Iowa, and spent nearly two years in Drake University at Des Moines. His taste and inclination, as manifested in

his youth, were along the lines of reading and study, with preference for the sciences. While in school he decided to prepare for the medical profession and in one vacation spent much time with a physician in Des Moines. He afterward returned to Taylor to engage in teaching that he might thus be enabled to continue his studies as a preparation for the practice of medicine, but became engrossed in school work and continued in that field of activity until his election to the county superintendency in 1895. His first teaching was done in 1876 and was continued until 1879, when he entered college. In 1883 he again resumed his duties as an instructor and with the exception of a year spent in newspaper work in Lenox he taught continuously until 1895. He was then elected county superintendent, serving from January 1, 1896, until January 1, 1902, and with one exception no other county superintendent of schools in Taylor county has served as long. He was elected for a third term, being the only county official ever thus chosen for more than twenty years. In politics he has always been a republican, active in his work for the party's interests, for he believes firmly in its principles and seeks the general welfare through his support of its candidates. After leaving the county superintendent's office he was in the employ of Maynard, Merrill & Company, school-book publishers, until 1905, when he became ill and the following year went to Los Angeles, California, with a hope that the change of climate would prove beneficial. The following year he returned to Taylor county, where he is now living.

In 1887 Professor Crosson was married to Miss Alice Isabel Dougherty, a daughter of Abner N. and Ellen Dougherty. Mrs. Crosson was born in this county in 1863 and by her marriage has become the mother of three children; Phil, who was born April 14, 1888, and died June 20, 1905; Mary, born January 20, 1892; and Ellen, born September 25, 1894. The family are widely known in this county and occupy an enviable position in those social circles where intelligence is regarded as a necessary attribute to congeniality. For many years Professor Crosson has been a loyal member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and since 1880 has been a consistent member of the Christian church. He holds to high ideals and throughout his entire life he has done with his might everything that his hand has found to do and performed all public service with a sense of conscientious obligation.

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#### FRANK L. NOBLE.

The farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Dallas township which is now owned by Frank L. Noble, was formerly the old Burlingame homestead, so that it has been in possession of the family throughout a long period. Mr. Noble was born on this farm, May 7, 1875, a son of John S. and Harriett A. (Burlingame) Noble. The father is a native of Michigan, born in 1847, and was the eldest in a family of six children born unto Mr. and Mrs. Lodowic Noble. The other children were Henry, Jerome, Frank, Lora and Ruth. Mrs. Harriett A. Noble was likewise born in Michigan, in 1853, a daughter of William H. and Hannah J. Burlingame, whose family numbered two daughters, the younger being Lucy B.



John S. Noble was but a boy when he came to Iowa from his native state, the year of his arrival here being 1859. He was here engaged in farming but his interests were interrupted at the time of the Civil war, for he went to the front as a member of Company I, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, with which he served throughout the period of hostilities. Returning home he once more resumed his farm work and for many years was the owner of the place on which the son now makes his home. It was in this state that John S. Noble was united in marriage to Miss Harriett A. Burlingame, and their union was blessed with five sons and two daughters, namely: Hattie A., Billy S., Frank, Bessie E., Fred, Jerome and Chauncey A.

Frank L. Noble, the third in order of birth, was reared to the pursuits of the farm and under the able instruction of his father became well qualified to carry on farming when he started out to make his own way in the world. He has spent his entire life at his present home, he having purchased the property from his grandfather. The place consists of one hundred and twenty acres in Dallas township, it being one of the valuable properties of this section of the county. On the farm are seen good buildings, which are kept in excellent repair, while through the rotation of crops and strict adherence to the best methods of farming Mr. Noble keeps his land in a rich and arable condition.

Mr. Noble was married March 21, 1900, to Miss Myra Glasgow, who is a native of Taylor county, born November 16, 1880. Her father, William Glasgow, was born in Illinois in 1833, a son of Mr. and Mrs. William Glasgow, Sr., the other children of the family being Samuel, Charles, Bell and Mattie. William Glasgow, Jr., was married to Miss Julia A. Roberts, who was likewise born in Illinois, the year of her birth being 1844. Their union was blessed with five sons and two daughters, namely: Myra, Frank A., Marion R., George W., John, Lola M. and William C.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Noble have been born two sons and two daughters: Guy H., who was born December 17, 1900; Lawrence G., whose birth occurred November 2, 1902; Gladys B., born December 28, 1904; and Wilma A., who was born on the 11th of March, 1906.

Mr. Noble gives stanch support to the republican party. Early trained to habits of thrift and industry, these have been strong traits in his later life and no doubt have had much to do with his present success. Having spent his entire life in Dallas township, he is well known in this and other sections of Taylor county, while his estimable wife shares with him in the respect and esteem in which he is universally held.

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#### C. W. SAGE.

C. W. Sage, to whom is due the credit of having improved two highly cultivated farms, is one of the most industrious and progressive agriculturists of Taylor county. He was born in Mercer county, Illinois, on the 9th of June, 1853, and is a son of Charles E. and Keziah M. (Norris) Sage. The father was a native of Saratoga, New York, where he was reared and married. He engaged in farm-

ing in Saratoga county, that state, for some time, and then removed to Michigan, where he resided for two years. Continuing his westward journey he next located in Illinois, where he cast in his lot with the pioneer settlers of Mercer county and opened up two farms, in the operation of which he continued for some time. Subsequently he removed to Galesburg, Knox county, Illinois, and from there to Van Buren county, Iowa, finally locating in Knoxville, where his death occurred in 1871. In his family were two sons and five daughters, of which number C. W. Sage, of this review, and three sisters still survive.

C. W. Sage was a little lad of four years when he accompanied his parents to Galesburg, and there he was reared to manhood. He acquired a good education in the common schools of that city and remained under the parental roof until he attained years of maturity. He then learned the baker's trade and was engaged in that line of activity for three years, when, thinking to find agricultural pursuits more congenial and profitable, he withdrew from that business and began working by the month on a farm in Knox county, Illinois. His time was thus employed from 1878 until 1881, at the end of which period he came to Iowa and purchased land in Marshall township, Taylor county. He resided thereon but one year, however, and then sold the property and invested in one hundred and sixty acres in Grant township, that farm forming the nucleus of his present possessions. When he purchased it, the land was only partially improved and he at once directed his entire energies to its further cultivation. As time passed by he prospered in his enterprise and was able to add from time to time to his original purchase until his home farm now consists of two hundred and forty-eight acres, all under a high state of cultivation. The excellent condition of his farm is due to his intense energy and industry. Upon the home place he has erected a neat and attractive residence, has built a substantial barn and good outbuildings, and has enclosed his fields with well-kept fences, while he has also set out a large orchard and a beautiful grove of evergreen, arbor vitæ and white pine. He combines general farming with stock-raising interests, making a specialty of fattening hogs, while he also raises high-grade horses, being the owner of several fine animals and having in his possession one especially fine team which has been awarded premiums at various fairs. In the conduct of his various business interests he has been extremely active and industrious, in fact carrying on the work of two men, and these qualities have been the salient characteristics of the very gratifying success which is today his.

On the 29th of March, 1885, Mr. Sage was united in marriage to Miss Ida Shawler, who was born in Warren county, Illinois, but reared to maturity in Ringgold county, Iowa. Her father, Richard Shawler, was a farmer by occupation and was numbered among the early pioneer settlers of that county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Sage have been born four children, as follows: Frank, assisting his father on the home farm; Lila, the wife of Frank House, a farmer of Grant township; Marie and Mildred, still under the parental roof; and Lena, who passed away at the age of thirteen months.

Mrs. Sage and the two eldest children are members of the Christian church of Clearfield, in the work of which they are deeply interested and the teachings of which form the guiding influences of their lives. Politically Mr. Sage gives stalwart allegiance to the republican party and has served as road supervisor.



He was one of the promoters of the first telephone company of the county, the line extending from Maloy to Clearfield, and has been identified with various other improvements instituted throughout the county. Public-spirited in an eminent degree, he does all in his power to further those measures and matters which have for their object the substantial upbuilding and growth of the community, and the consensus of public opinion accords him a high place in the ranks of Grant township's representative citizens.

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### JAMES A. AVEY.

The ranks of the Civil war veterans are fast being decimated. Year by year many respond to the last roll call, and it is fitting that while some of the boys in blue survive they should be honored by their fellow-townsmen for the service which they rendered to the country during the darkest hour in all its history. Mr. Avey is among those who for three years or more did active duty on southern battlefields, and in days of peace he has been equally loyal to his country and is now numbered among the public-spirited citizens of Blockton. At the present time he is living retired, but for many years was a progressive farmer of Union and Taylor counties. He comes of a family whose representatives were numbered among the early pioneers of Ohio. Born in Clermont county, that state, on the 11th of March, 1842, he is a son of Joseph and Sarah (Cazel) Avey. The father was also a native of Ohio and was there reared and married. His parents were among the first settlers of that state and aided in the improvement and development of the section of country in which they resided. Joseph Avey followed the occupation of farming in Ohio, where he passed away, and his wife, long surviving him, died at the ripe old age of ninety-two years.

James A. Avey was reared in the state of his nativity and there acquired his education in the common schools. He remained at home, assisting his father in the work of the farm, until twenty years of age, when he responded to his country's call for aid and, in 1862, enlisted as a member of Company F, Fifty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which became a part of the Army of the Cumberland. Throughout his term of enlistment he saw much active service, participating in several hotly contested battles, among the most important being the engagements at Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and Chattanooga, while he was also in the Atlanta campaign and helped to take Jonesboro and Atlanta. There was a time when, for a period of nearly two months, he engaged in either a battle or skirmish every day. Later he did guard duty and participated in many minor engagements, serving faithfully and efficiently until the close of the war, when he was mustered out at Nashville, where he was honorably discharged on the 29th of June, 1865.

Returning home with a most enviable military record, Mr. Avey remained in Ohio for two or three years, being employed by the month, and then, in 1868, he went to Knox county, Illinois, where he worked at farm labor for about two years. The year 1871 witnessed his arrival in Iowa, where he located in Union



MR. AND MRS. J. A. AVEY





county, near Creston, opening up a farm of eighty acres there. This he continued to operate for five years, at the end of which time he sold the place and in 1877 purchased land in Gay township, Taylor county. The farm consisted of one hundred and sixty acres, which was only partially improved and upon which stood a little cabin. With characteristic energy he set about the development of the place, cultivated the unimproved land, replaced the cabin by a good comfortable house, erected substantial barns and outbuildings, set out a fine grove and orchard and added to his original purchase a tract of eighty acres, so that his farm, which subsequently consisted of two hundred and forty acres, became one of the finest in the locality, lacking in nothing that goes to make up a model farm of the nineteenth century. In addition to general farming he engaged in the stock business, raising and fattening hogs and cattle for market, and this branch of his interests proved a most profitable one. He remained on his farm for several years, actively engaged in its operation, and then, in 1903, feeling that the creditable degree of prosperity to which he had attained justified his retirement from active business, he left the farm and removed to Blockton, where he purchased a comfortable residence. He also owns a half block of town property and four acres in another tract. His home is one of the attractive ones of the city and its hospitality is enjoyed by a large number of Mr. Avey's friends.

Mr. Avey laid the foundation of a happy home life by his marriage, March 13, 1878, in Clermont county, Ohio, to Miss Mary Jane Thompson, who was born and reared upon a farm adjoining the old Avey homestead and attended the same school as did he who was to be her future husband. She is a daughter of Thomas and Mary (Cramer) Thompson. Her father, a native of Delaware, went to Ohio during the period of the Civil war, settling in Clermont county, where he was married. He entered a tract of land, which he cleared and improved, and later he sold this farm and removed to Batavia, where his remaining days were spent. After his death his wife resided with her daughter Mrs. Avey, until she passed away in 1898 at the venerable age of eighty-five years. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Avey was blessed with three sons and one daughter, as follows: Professor Harry Avey, a teacher in a mission school in India, who is a graduate of the Blockton high school and the Agricultural College at Ames, Iowa, and is now teaching mechanical engineering; Joseph, a farmer of Gay township; Homer, also engaged in farming; and Luella, who married Ellis Nulph, the junior editor of the *Blockton News*.

Mr. and Mrs. Avey are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and she was formerly a very active Sunday-school worker. Mr. Avey maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades in his membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. He has been a stanch advocate of democracy since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and has been called to fill various offices. He served as township trustee while still upon the farm and was also treasurer school system of the community. He has been active in local party ranks and has of the school board, doing all in his power to upbuild and strengthen the public served as delegate to various county conventions. Starting out in life without any specially favoring circumstances, Mr. Avey steadily worked his way up from the bottom of the ladder until, through his indefatigable energy, untiring perseverance, close application and good judgment, assisted very materially by his



estimable wife, he gained a high place among the prosperous and progressive farmers of Taylor county, while today he ranks among the valued and representative citizens of Blockton, his many excellent traits of character winning him the confidence, respect and good will of his fellowmen.

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#### ALEXANDER McKENZIE.

Alexander McKenzie, recognized as one of the foremost business men of Taylor county, actively identified with commercial interests in Lenox for a quarter of a century, was born in Whiteside county, Illinois, in September, 1844, and was there reared to manhood. He attended the public schools in acquiring his education and in August, 1862, when not yet eighteen years of age, he enlisted at Fulton, Illinois, in response to the president's call for aid, joining Company I of the Seventy-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. With that command he went south and the first and only engagement in which he participated was at Perryville, Kentucky, for there he sustained three gunshot wounds, one through the jaw while another bullet pierced his arm and the third struck his leg between the bones. He was sent to the hospital at Louisville where he remained all through the winter of 1862-63, his mother going there and nursing him through his illness. His injuries were such that he was honorably discharged in the spring of the latter year and he is now one of the government pensioners, no pecuniary reward, however, being sufficient to recompense him for the suffering which he has undergone because of his injuries.

After his return home Mr. McKenzie again continued his education by attending school. He was married in Afton, Iowa, in October, 1870, to Miss L. C. Devore, a native of Carroll county, Illinois. Following their marriage Mr. McKenzie engaged in farming in Illinois for two or three years and then came to Iowa in the winter of 1874, purchasing raw land in Adams county. He commenced with eighty acres which he brought under cultivation and improvement. In his work he prospered and as his financial resources increased he bought more land from time to time until he owned four hundred acres. On this he placed substantial improvements and for ten years he carried on general agricultural pursuits.

In 1884 he removed to Lenox where he began dealing in agricultural implements and at the same time he superintended the operation of his farm for a few years. Later he extended his efforts in commercial lines by becoming a dealer in furniture and afterward turned his attention to the hardware trade, carrying a large line of shelf and heavy hardware. He secured a liberal patronage by reason of his honorable dealing, his fair prices and his earnest desire to please his patrons and from the beginning the enterprise has proved a source of profit. He erected a large business block and now carries an extensive stock to meet the demands of a growing trade. He is justly accounted one of the successful and prominent business men of Lenox and his enterprise and activity have proven factors in the commercial advancement of the town. While living on the farm he also conducted a contracting business for a time, building residences and barns and also making a specialty of the building of bridges for ten years. At one

time he was engaged in the hardware, furniture and implement business for ten years at Bedford, entering that enterprise as a member of the firm of Widner, McKenzie & Company, which later became McKenzie & McGregor.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie has been blessed with one son, Howard, who is now his father's partner and the active man of the firm at the present time. He is married and has four children.

In his political views Alexander McKenzie is a republican, giving stalwart allegiance to the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He served as township trustee for some years and was a member of the city council of Lenox for a number of terms, discharging the duties of both positions in a most prompt and acceptable manner. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic and on several occasions has been honored with election as commander of the post. In that organization he maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades, few of whom have made greater sacrifices for the country than Mr. McKenzie did. In all of his business life he has adhered to the highest standard of commercial ethics and in citizenship he has sought ever the welfare of the community before the aggrandizement of self. He is a man of genuine personal worth and his sterling qualities have gained him a high place in the regard of his fellow-men.

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#### JOHN B. DOWELL.

The farming interests of Benton township find a worthy representative in John B. Dowell, who is living on section 22. He is one of the progressive, active and enterprising farmers and stock raisers of the community, his time and energies being given to the cultivation and development of two hundred acres of land, constituting a neat and well-improved farm pleasantly located within two miles of Bedford. He has resided on this farm since 1895, in which year he came to Taylor county. He was born in Menard county, Illinois, August 22, 1865, and is a son of Thomas F. Dowell, also a native of the same county. The father was there reared and after attaining his majority married Ann Goff. He was a farmer of Menard county and later removed westward to Missouri, settling near Hopkins in Nodaway county, where he purchased three hundred and sixty acres of land. There he engaged in farming and spent his last years upon that place, his death there occurring in July, 1906. For some time he had survived his wife, who died in 1887.

J. B. Dowell was reared to the age of about seventeen years in Illinois and pursued his education in the public schools there and in Hopkins, Missouri, having accompanied his parents on their removal westward. He remained with his father until he had attained his majority and then went to California as a young man, spending one year on the coast as an employe on an orange and lemon ranch. In 1886 he returned to Missouri and on the 4th of December of that year was united in marriage to Miss Nettie Allen, who was born and reared in Nodaway county and was a daughter of Austin Allen, one of the early settlers of the county, and a sister of Mrs. Horace Jones of Parnell, Missouri. Mrs. Dowell



was reared in the place of her nativity and acquired her education in the district schools, and in Illinois.

Following his marriage Mr. Dowell engaged in farming in Nodaway county for six years, purchasing a farm of eighty acres of land. In 1895 he bought one hundred and sixty acres in Benton township, where he now resides and with characteristic energy began to improve and cultivate this place. He has since extended its boundaries by the purchase of an additional tract of forty acres, and is now the owner of an excellent property of two hundred acres in the midst of which he has erected a large and commodious frame residence. He has likewise built two good barns and ample shelter for grain and stock is afforded in sheds and other outbuildings, which he has put up. He has some twelve hundred rods of woven wire fence, which is hog tight, much of this being used to divide the farm into fields of convenient size. He has also planted an orchard, and altogether the farm presents a thrifty, attractive appearance. He has a herd of twenty-eight head of registered Hereford cattle and he also owns fine Chester White and Poland China hogs. At a sale which he held in March, 1900, he sold stock hogs to the amount of seventeen hundred dollars. He is regarded as one of the leading live-stock dealers and representative farmers of the county and his capable conduct of his business affairs is evidenced in the excellent farm which he owns and in the improvements which he has made upon it.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Dowell have been born five children, Jesse, Austin, Ross, Anna Lois and Ethel Ruth. All these children have been pupils in the Bedford schools, the eldest son having graduated there in the spring of 1909. Mr. Dowell and his children are members of the Baptist church of Bedford, while his wife belongs to the Presbyterian church. The family is prominent socially, having many friends in this part of the county. Politically Mr. Dowell is a democrat but has never sought nor desired office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs. He has thus become well known as an active, prosperous and progressive farmer of Taylor county and his success is well merited, for it has come as the legitimate reward of his earnest and persistent effort.

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#### W. E. KING.

W. E. King, actively and busily engaged in general farming, his attention and energies being directed to the further development and improvement of two hundred acres of land on section 23, Jefferson township, has lived in Iowa since 1883, at which time he took up his abode in Taylor county. He is a western man by birth and training, having first opened his eyes to the light of day in Schuyler county, Missouri, February 20, 1857. His father, William King, was a native of Wilkes county, North Carolina, where he was reared and there married Miss Ann Janette Call, also a native of the same county. He followed farming in the Old North State until 1859 when he resolved to seek his fortune in Missouri and established his home in Schuyler county, where he entered land from the government and opened up a farm. His tract originally comprised eighty acres but additional purchases from time to time had made him the owner of two hundred

and forty acres constituting a well-improved and valuable farm. Eventually, however, he sold that property and removed to Worth county, Missouri, where he opened up a new farm on which he spent his last years. There he died September 25, 1898, and thus was closed a life of continuous usefulness and activity. His wife passed away on the 13th of August, 1909. To her was accorded a premium at the Old Settlers Association at Blockton on two or three occasions as being the oldest person in this part of Iowa or Missouri.

W. E. King was reared on the old home place in Worth county and from early youth assisted his father in tilling the fields and caring for the crops. After his father's death he and his brother took charge of and carried on the place for a few years, displaying in its able management the business ability and spirit of enterprise which have since made him one of the leading and representative agriculturists of Taylor county.

While living in Worth county, W. E. King was married on the 27th of February, 1881, to Miss Louisa Weese. After their marriage they lived in Missouri for two or three years, Mr. King carrying on farming in Worth county and on the expiration of that period they came to Iowa where he made investment in one hundred and twenty acres of land comprising a part of the farm upon which he now resides. It was undeveloped and unimproved land but he broke the sod, fenced the fields, erected the necessary buildings and opened up the farm. Day by day added something to the work he accomplished in transforming the place into productive fields. After cultivating his land for some years Mr. King then rented the place and removed to Worth county where he farmed his mother's land for five years. He then returned to his old home and has since erected a good residence of two good barns and outbuildings. He has also set out an orchard and grove and the trees add much to the beauty of the place. There was not a switch or stick upon the place when he took possession and now there are various fruit trees together with fine shade and ornamental trees. Mr. King has also added eighty acres to his original tract and with the production of grain he also raises and feeds cattle, horses and hogs. He likewise owns one hundred and sixty acres in the panhandle of Texas, on which his son is now located and his wife owns eighty acres of land in Worth county.

In 1899 Mr. King was called upon to mourn the loss of his first wife who died on the 4th of June, of that year, leaving four sons and four daughters, all of whom are yet living. These are: Charles E., now of Texas; Zenis P., living in Blockton; Alvin N., and William D., who are aiding in carrying on the home farm; Mina, Etta N., Jennie M. and Bessie, all yet under the parental roof. In Taylor county Mr. King was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Melvina Ethridge, a widow who only lived for about two years after their marriage. In Worth county, Missouri, on the 20th of May, 1906, Mr. King wedded Catherine Drummings, also a widow and a native of Ohio. She was reared, however, in Iowa and Missouri and was married in Worth county of the latter state to James Thomas Drummings, a farmer of that locality. By her former marriage she had one son, Ulysses S. Drummings, now of Worth county.

In his political views Mr. King has been a lifelong democrat, casting his first presidential vote for Grover Cleveland and his last for William Jennings Bryan. He has never sought nor desired office for himself but has served as a member



of school board. Both he and his wife are members of the Christian church of B and are both active workers in the church and Sunday-school, doing all in their power to promote the growth and extend the influence of the church in its efforts for the moral redemption of the race. Mr. King is well known in this section of the country where he has long resided and where his labors have been so directed that intelligent and unremitting effort has brought to him a gratifying competence.

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### JAMES D. DOUGLASS.

James D. Douglass is living on section 23, Clayton township, busily engaged in the cultivation of a neat and well-improved farm of eighty acres. He is numbered among the early settlers of Taylor county and among Iowa's native sons, his birth having occurred in Delaware county on the 21st of January, 1858. His father, David Douglass, is a native of Ohio and in his youthful days removed with his parents to Illinois where he was reared. When a young man, about 1847, he arrived in Iowa, settling in Jackson county, while subsequently he removed to Delaware county. He was married in this state to Miss Mary J. Main, a native of Indiana, and turning his attention to farming he opened up a new farm in Delaware county where he carried on general agricultural pursuits for several years, during which time five children were born of the marriage. In 1871 he removed to Taylor county and purchased land in Gay township, where he developed a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he reared his family. While living upon that place his wife died about 1899, Mr. Douglass surviving her for several years, his death occurring in August, 1902.

James D. Douglass is one of a family of three sons and a daughter who were the surviving members of the father's household. He spent the days of his boyhood and youth in this state, pursued his education in the country schools and remained with his father until he had obtained his majority, assisting him in the cultivation of the home farm. The training which he received in agricultural lines well qualified him for the work which he took up in starting out in life on his own account. He was married in Blockton, Iowa, December 23, 1880, to Miss Laura Denney, who was born in Clark county, Iowa. After his marriage he rented land and engaged in farming in Gay township for a few years. Later he bought and owned several farms in different parts of the county, eventually purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Benton township, on which he located and made his home for several years. He then sold out and bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Washington township, where he carried on general farming for three years. He then traded that property for a tract of land in Gay township, owning and cultivating there one hundred and eighty acres which he brought under a high state of improvement. He built to and remodeled the house but after six years spent upon the place he traded that property for a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Mason township, on which he lived for five years. In that period he erected good buildings and kept everything about his place in a state of good repair, making the farm a valuable and

productive one. After disposing of that property he bought the place upon which he now resides and which has been his home since January, 1891. He owns here a neat and well-improved farm of eighty acres, situated on section 23, Clayton township, and in connection with the cultivation of cereals best adapted to soil and climate he raises and feeds stock, has some good horses and also hogs and cattle of high grades.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Douglass have been born three children; Charles O., who is married and resides in Colorado; Cecil A., who is married and is a farmer of Clayton township; and Ethel May, a young lady at home. Mr. Douglass has been a stalwart republican in politics, since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, at all elections where state and national issues are involved, but is not strongly partisan in local politics. He has been elected and is now serving as assessor but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. Throughout his entire life he has been a resident of Iowa, living in Taylor county for thirty-eight years, during which period he has not only been a witness of the growth and progress of the county but has aided materially in its development and improvement. He has bought, owned and cultivated a number of farms which he has sold later at a fair advance in price. He is a good business man and one whose business integrity is above question. His life has been one of industry and thrift and his enterprise has brought him success which he is now enjoying and which numbers him among the representative agriculturists of the community.

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#### LEW W. SPENCER.

There is no richer agricultural district in all the world than the broad prairies of Iowa and the state is accorded leadership in the production of corn and holds hardly a secondary place in the production of several other cereals. Lew W. Spencer is among the number whose labors have contributed to the reputation which the state bears in this connection. He is one of the progressive farmers of Ross township, living on section 14. His landed possessions are extensive, comprising four hundred acres of valuable land on which he raises extensive crops and also raises and feeds stock.

His record is altogether a creditable one and Iowa is glad to number him among her native sons. He was born near Des Moines county, October 10, 1865, and is a son of David Andrew Spencer, a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1825. The father remained in the Keystone state to the age of seventeen years when he removed westward. He married Elmira Bishop and for a time they resided in Nodaway county, Missouri, but subsequently established their home in Taylor county, Iowa, where Mr. Spencer bought and owned seven hundred acres of land. Nearly all of this was wild when it came into his possession but with characteristic energy he turned the sod and in course of time transformed the land into productive fields, thus opening up a farm upon which his son Lew now resides. Year by year he carefully carried on his agricultural pursuits until 1905 when he put aside the cares of active business life and removed to Bedford where he is now living.



Lew W. Spencer was reared to manhood on the old home farm and attended the country schools but is largely self-educated. By reading and study and also in the school of experience he has learned many valuable lessons and his views are now practical and his judgment sound and reliable. He remained with his father until twenty-four years of age when he was married and established a home of his own.

It was on the 31st of January, 1889, in Ross township that Mr. Spencer was joined in wedlock to Miss Alice Cobb, a daughter of Ambrose Cobb, of Bedford. Following their marriage they began their domestic life on the farm adjoining the property on which they now reside, and in 1890 took up their abode upon their present place. Mr. Spencer began here with one hundred and twenty acres of land and bent every energy to the cultivation and development of the place. As the years passed he made many modern improvements, added to it and remodeled the house, built a good barn and double crib, enclosed his fields with barbed and woven wire fencing and as he prospered in his undertakings as the years passed he added to his property from time to time until he now has three hundred and twenty acres in the home place and eighty acres in another tract. He annually gathers large crops of corn and other grains and he likewise raises and feeds cattle and hogs, his live-stock interests being an important branch of his business.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Spencer have been born two sons, Troy and Clark R. The former is now a young man who is ably assisting his father in carrying on the home farm. Mr. Spencer is politically independent nor would he ever hold office. He is a man of high principle who never falters in his allegiance to a course which he believes to be right. His success, his business integrity and his many substantial traits of character place him in a prominent position in the community.

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#### A. R. McCAIN.

A. R. McCain is a prosperous farmer, owning one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 9, Platte township. He is a native of Scott county, Iowa, born September 8, 1862. His father, Alexander L. McCain, was born in North Carolina, where he grew to maturity. He was a strong advocate of the Union cause during the Civil war and on that account it became necessary for him to seek a home in the north and accordingly he settled on a farm in Scott county, Iowa. Later he took up his abode in Warren county, this state, where he continued to follow agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in the spring of 1899. He had been married twice and by his first union there is a surviving son and daughter: John G., a resident of west Tennessee; and Martha J., the wife of William Wilson, of Scott county, Iowa. He was married a second time in South Carolina to Miss Jane McQuiston, who was born and reared in that state. She became the mother of eight children, of whom three sons and one daughter survive: H. J., now a resident of Idaho; R. E., of Chicago; Anna E., who is with her brother in that city; and A. R., of this review. The mother departed this life in 1905, her death occurring in Taylor county.







A. R. McCAIN AND FAMILY



RESIDENCE OF A. R. MCCAIN





A. R. McCain, the youngest child of his father's second marriage, was but a lad when the family removed from Scott to Warren county, this state, and it was in the latter place that he was practically reared. As soon as old enough he was set to work in the fields, his time being thus employed during the spring and summer months, while during the winter months he attended the district schools. He continued to assist his father in the management of the homestead farm until the latter's death. In 1899 he purchased his present farm in Taylor county, which he rented for one year to his brother, H. J. McCain, who then removed to an adjoining farm, which he purchased but after a residence of ten years there, removed to Idaho, where he now resides.

It was on the 6th of October, 1892, that A. R. McCain was united in marriage to Miss Cordelia Thompson, a daughter of Mitchell Thompson. He was a soldier in the Civil war, serving as a member of the Eighty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was killed while at the front. Mrs. McCain was born and reared in Warren county, Illinois, and was educated in Monmouth College.

Following his marriage Mr. McCain continued on the home farm in Warren county, Iowa, remaining thereon until 1900, when he took up his abode on his own farm, which had been in his possession since a year before. He has built a large and substantial country residence and outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock, has divided the place into fields of convenient size by good fences and has added to the productiveness of the soil by the use of tiling. He is ever seeking to enhance the value and productiveness of his land by the adoption of modern methods of agriculture and is most progressive in all his work.

Mr. and Mrs. McCain have three daughters: Bessie and Evelyn, who are high-school students in Lenox; and Irene, who is attending the district schools. Mr. McCain is a republican with strong prohibition tendencies. Both he and his wife are members of the United Presbyterian church at Lenox and are active in the work of the church and Sunday-school. Few men are more prominent in agricultural circles in Taylor county than is Mr. McCain. He is an important factor in business circles and his prosperity is well deserved, as in him are embraced the characteristics of an unbending integrity, unabating energy and industry that never flags. He is public-spirited, giving his cooperation to every movement which tends to promote the moral and material welfare of the community.

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#### FRANK M. HAMILTON.

Frank M. Hamilton, who for a number of years was identified with the United States government interests both at Washington, D. C., and elsewhere, and was also connected with educational lines in Taylor and Page counties, this state, for a long period, is now engaged in general farming and stock raising in Polk township, Taylor county, and through his energy, industry and perseverance has won for himself a high place among the well-known and prosperous agriculturists of his community.

A native of Indiana, he was born in Lebanon on the 6th of April, 1857, a son of Colonel D. H. and Eliza (Vannice) Hamilton, both natives of Indiana,



the former of Madison and the latter of Clinton county. The father, however, was reared in Boone county, his native state, and enjoyed the benefits of a good education, becoming a graduate of Wabash College at Crawfordsville. He was a lawyer and engaged in active practice of his profession in Indiana up to 1871. He had been married in Boone county, where his children were born and reared. In that year he removed to Taylor county, Iowa, and located on a farm in Ross township, where he was engaged in agricultural pursuits for about twelve years. At the expiration of that period he went to Creston, Iowa, where he was identified with merchandising for six years. He then organized the Racket Merchandise Company and located for business in Kansas City. He was elected first president of the company and remained incumbent in that office up to the time of his demise, which occurred about three years later. He was a well-known figure in political circles in his native state and in 1867 was elected from Boone county to represent his district in the state senate. He was also elected a member of the county board of Taylor county, Iowa, filling that position for two terms or six years. The only interruption in his active business career came in 1862, when, in response to his country's call for troops, he enlisted from Boone county, Indiana, being elected captain of Company G, Fifty-fifth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. His brave and valiant service, however, won him promotion and he was mustered out with the rank of Colonel of the One Hundred and Tenth Regiment. He was well known not only in his native state but also in Iowa and Missouri and was held in high regard and esteem by all who knew him. He passed away in 1894 in Kansas City, his remains being taken to Bedford, Iowa, for burial. He was a Royal Arch Mason and the funeral services were conducted under the auspices of that order and of the Grand Army of the Republic. His wife still survives, while their children who are yet living are: Frank M., of this review, and Mrs. A. H. Crawford, residing in Denver, Colorado.

Frank M. Hamilton was reared under the parental roof and was given the advantages of thorough educational training. He attended the public schools of his native state and later became a pupil at the Presbyterian Academy at Lebanon, Indiana, while he supplemented this training by a course of study at the Wabash College of Crawfordsville. After his graduation from that institution he entered upon the profession of teaching and was thus engaged in Taylor and Page counties, Iowa, for about twelve years. He proved a very efficient instructor, clearly and readily imparting to others the knowledge he had himself acquired, and he did all in his power to further the interests of education during his connection with the profession. He subsequently was offered a position in the pension bureau at Washington, D. C., at a salary of one thousand dollars per year, which position he filled acceptably for some time. He then resigned and accepted the office of special examiner, at an advanced salary of thirteen hundred dollars per year, traveling in Missouri for about two years. He was also located in Hannibal and St. Joseph, that state; acting in that capacity until 1903.

In that year Mr. Hamilton resigned from the government employ and came to Iowa, purchasing the farm upon which he now resides. It consists of one hundred and twenty acres of fine farm land situated on section 11, Polk town-

ship, Taylor county. He has greatly improved the place since it came into his possession, erecting a comfortable and attractive residence, two substantial barns and sheds and other outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock. He has also set out a fine orchard of well-selected fruit trees and his fields, which are highly cultivated, return to him rich annual harvests. He has introduced all the latest equipment and accessories for facilitating the farm work and his place presents the appearance of a model farm of the twentieth century. In connection with his general farming he engages in stock raising, making a specialty of red polled cattle, having on hand at the present time thirty head, all high-grade stock. He also operates a small dairy and these branches of his business are proving gratifying sources of profit to him.

On Christmas day of 1883 Mr. Hamilton was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Dresher, who was born and reared on a farm adjoining that of Mr. Hamilton. The one child, Ross, who came to bless this union, passed away when three years of age. Mr. Hamilton belongs to the Presbyterian church, of which his wife and mother are also members, and he is now serving as an elder of that church, being deeply and helpfully interested in the work thereof. Fraternally he is a Master Mason, belonging to Plumb Lodge, and is also connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having served as an officer in the Washington lodge during his residence in the capital. In politics he has always been a stalwart republican, doing all in his power to further the interests and influence of that party, while his fellow-citizens, recognizing his loyal public spirit, have called him to various public offices. He served as justice of the peace for two terms and was then elected assessor, serving in that capacity for four years, when he resigned. He has been a prominent figure in party councils and has been sent as delegate to various state and county conventions. He is a gentleman of genuine personal worth, at all times adhering to high ideals of manhood, and he has the esteem and respect of all with whom he has been associated. As a business man he has displayed many sterling traits, not the least of which are close application, undaunted energy and unfaltering integrity. His life has been one of continuous activity in which has been accorded due recognition of labor, and the consensus of public opinion grants him a place among the prosperous, progressive and prominent agriculturists of Polk township.

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#### ELISHA McCORMICK.

Elisha McCormick who for years was one of the active and prosperous farmers and stock raisers of Taylor county, and still owns a farm in Ross township although he is now living retired in Bedford, is numbered among the early settlers of this part of the state. He has been in Iowa since 1875 and the work that he has accomplished here not only rates him with the substantial men of the community but also as one whose efforts have been a valuable factor in promoting the material growth and progress of the community. A native of Pennsylvania, he was born in Greene county January 24, 1837, a son of Jacob McCormick, who was also born and reared in Greene county and was there



married to Miss Eliza Wilson, likewise a native of that county. They removed to Ohio in 1846, settling in Ashland county where they spent two years and then removed to Richland county in the same state, taking up their abode in that part of the county which was later set off as Morrow county. There Jacob McCormick engaged in general farming for a number of years but subsequently removed to Warren county, Illinois, settling six miles west of Monmouth, where he spent his last years.

Elisha McCormick arrived in Illinois in 1850 when a lad of thirteen years and was there reared on the home farm. He is almost wholly self-educated but in the school of experience has learned many valuable lessons of life. While still living in Warren county, Illinois, he was married, on the 13th of March, 1861, to Miss Susan Cummings who was born in Fulton county, Illinois, and spent her girlhood days in Fulton and Warren counties. The young couple began their domestic life in Warren county where Mr. McCormick improved a farm and carried on general agricultural pursuits for thirteen years. He then disposed of his property there in 1875 and removed to Taylor county, Iowa, where he purchased land, becoming owner of one hundred and sixty acres in Ross township. It was wild and unimproved when it came into his possession but he soon turned the sod, planted the fields and in course of time gathered rich harvests. He has erected a two-story residence upon the place and being a natural mechanic he planned and built his own house, doing even all the brick work. He first came to the county in 1874 and prepared the home for the family, his permanent removal, however, being in March, 1875. With characteristic energy he began the development and improvement of the place. His indefatigable energy and perseverance soon brought the farm under a high state of cultivation and for many years he gathered rich crops while the fields are still yielding abundant harvests in reward for the care and labor bestowed upon them. From time to time he made substantial improvements, including the building of an addition to the house. He has also put up two barns and good outbuildings, furnishing ample shelter for grain and stock. He likewise planted a grove and orchard. Upon that farm he resided until 1894 when he sold the property and bought a farm in Jackson township constituting an improved property of five hundred and sixty-eight acres. He removed to that place—a neat and well improved stock farm, and in connection with the tilling of the soil he raised and fed stock and also bred and raised horses. He owned one Shire stallion which he purchased at a cost of two thousand, one hundred dollars. He continued his farming and stock-raising interests until 1907, when he went to Bedford where he purchased a good home, which he has since added to and remodeled. He also has erected a good barn upon his place and is now pleasantly situated, his business activities in former years enabling him to enjoy all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. McCormick have been born five sons and five daughters: Walter, who is married and follows farming in the Panhandle of Texas, where he owns three hundred and forty-nine acres; Edgar P. and Edwin C., twins, who are married and own and operate a part of the Jackson township farm; Fred, who is married and engaged in the cultivation of a farm in Ross township; Addie, the wife of R. J. Montgomery, a farmer of Nodaway county, Missouri; Mary E., the wife of F. P. Beard, a retired farmer residing in Bedford; Villa,

the wife of C. E. Jones, a resident farmer of Ross township; and Rubie, the wife of A. C. Trumbo, a farmer of Jackson township. Mr. and Mrs. McCormick have lost two children, their first-born, a daughter, Fannie, died in 1885, while Elmer died in 1888 in his sixteenth year.

Politically Mr. McCormick has been a life-long democrat since casting his first presidential ballot for Stephen A. Douglas, whom he heard speak on many occasions, also hearing him in the joint discussion and debate with Lincoln. While he has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking he has served for twelve years as township trustee and has been a member of the school board in Ross township for some years. He is always interested in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community and cooperates in many movements for the general good. He has led an active life, has helped to improve two farms in Taylor county, and is widely and favorably known.

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#### T. M. BEGGS.

T. M. Beggs, who owns and operates the Evergreen Stock Farm, a valuable property of two hundred acres located in Grant township, is meeting with creditable success in his business and is numbered among the representative and substantial farmers of that part of the township in which he resides. One of Iowa's native sons, he was born in Davis county on the 10th of January, 1857, his parents being William and Margaret (Fry) Beggs, the former born in Virginia and the latter in Indiana. The father was reared in the Old Dominion and as a young man went to Indiana, where he was married. He carried on agricultural pursuits in that state for some years, and then came to Iowa in 1852, taking up his abode in Davis county. He purchased two hundred acres of land, which he operated for several years, and then sold out and removed to Appanoose county, where he invested in two hundred and forty acres, on which he made his home until his demise. He passed away on the 10th of April, 1889, while his wife survived until the 10th of May, 1909.

T. M. Beggs was but a little lad at the time of the removal of the family to Appanoose county, and there he was reared to manhood, acquiring his education in the common schools near his fathers' home. At an early date he began assisting in the work of the home farm and in the school of experience he gained a very broad and comprehensive knowledge of the best methods of carrying on agricultural pursuits. He remained under the parental roof until 1876, when, desiring to start out on an independent business venture, he came to Taylor county and for four years worked by the month as a farm hand. During the first two years he was employed upon the farm of J. J. Knox, with whom he boarded, while the last two years were devoted to operating the farm which is now in his possession. Later he resided upon a farm south of Clearfield, which he operated as a renter for about two years, and then he purchased the Holbrook farm from his father-in-law. This consisted of one hundred and sixty acres in Grant township and formed the nucleus of his present possessions. In the fall of 1908 he purchased another tract of forty acres adjoining, so that his present farm, which



is known as the Evergreen Stock Farm, consists of two hundred acres of valuable land, all of which has been brought under a high state of cultivation. He has erected a comfortable and attractive home, which stands in the midst of a neat lawn adorned with beautiful evergreen trees and well kept shrubbery. In the rear are found good barns and outbuildings, and he has set out a fine grove and orchard. He carries on general agricultural pursuits and also engages extensively in raising and feeding stock, fattening as high as seventy head of hogs annually. He is systematic, methodical and progressive in the conduct of his business affairs, and these characteristics have proved salient elements in the creditable degree of prosperity which he today enjoys.

It was on the 28th of January, 1886, that Mr. Beggs was united in marriage to Miss Cora B. Holbrook, a native of Bureau county, Illinois, and a daughter of W. A. Holbrook. Her father removed from the Prairie State to Vernon county, Missouri, and later, in 1877, came to Taylor county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm south of Lenox, in Platte township. After a time he sold that property and purchased the farm which is now the home of our subject. In 1893, after selling the farm to Mr. Beggs, he removed to Nebraska, and in that state spent the remainder of his life. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Beggs has been blessed with two sons, namely: Harry Lee, who, in partnership with his father, operates a steam thresher; and Guy Allen, who is also residing with his parents, assisting in the operation of the home farm.

The family are members of the Christian church of Clearfield, in which Mr. Beggs is serving as deacon, and are people of high standing in the community in which they reside. Politically Mr. Beggs is a democrat, but the honors and emoluments of office have never had any attraction for him, as he prefers to concentrate his efforts upon his business affairs, which, carefully and wisely managed, are bringing to him a substantial success. His fellow-citizens respect him for what he has accomplished and admire him for the honorable methods he has followed in attaining his success.

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#### DANIEL R. CREE.

Daniel R. Cree is numbered among the prosperous and progressive agriculturists of Taylor county, owing and operating a valuable farm of two hundred and fifty-five acres on sections 5 and 8, Marshall township. A native of Illinois, his birth occurred in Henry county on the 29th of April, 1864, his parents being Robert and Mary E. (Piper) Cree, the former born in Ohio and the latter in Pennsylvania. The father was reared in the Buckeye State and in early life removed to Henry county, Illinois, where he was married, there carrying on agricultural pursuits for a number of years. In that county three of his children were born. The year 1869 witnessed his arrival in Iowa, the family home being established in Page county, where he purchased a farm of one hundred acres near Clarinda. He devoted his time and attention to the further improvement and cultivation of this farm and later purchased more land, becoming the owner

of three hundred acres. Subsequently he sold his property in Page county and in 1902 came to Taylor county, where he invested in four hundred acres. His remaining days were here spent with his children, his death occurring on the 14th of February, 1909. His remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Gravity. He had become a very successful farmer and business man and was well known and highly respected throughout the communities in which he resided.

Daniel R. Cree was a little lad of five years when he was brought by his parents to Iowa, and on his father's farm in Page county he was reared to manhood, attending the common schools in the acquirement of his education. He resided under the parental roof until he reached his majority, in the meantime assisting his father in the cultivation of the home farm and at the same time gaining a thorough and comprehensive knowledge concerning the best methods of plowing, planting and harvesting. Upon attaining man's estate he started in business on his own account, wisely choosing as his life work the occupation to which he had been reared. He went to Chase county, Nebraska, and homesteaded a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, improving the same and making his home thereupon for three years. Later he returned to Page county and operated his father's farm, also purchasing an adjoining farm, where he continued to reside until 1902. In that year he came to Taylor county and invested in eighty acres of his present farm, falling heir to the rest of the two hundred and fifty-five acres on sections 5 and 8, Marshall township, where he has since made his home. He has brought his fields under a high state of cultivation and his farm, in its neat and attractive appearance, stands as a monument to his industry and thrift, being one of the valuable and desirable properties of the township. Mr. Cree has made a close study of agriculture and is methodical, systematic and progressive in his methods, so that he has gained rank among the enterprising and substantial farmers of the locality. He carries on general farming and also devotes much time to the raising of horses, cattle and hogs, both branches of his business proving sources of gratifying remuneration.

It was during his residence in Chase county, Nebraska, that Mr. Cree was united in marriage to Miss Ada Clabaugh, a native of Taylor county, Iowa, and unto this union were born three sons and four daughters, but one daughter, Carrie M., passed away when four years of age. The others are: Rilda E., Ora L., Arthur W., Glenn I., Elva M. and Loretta A. On the 20th of November, 1899, the wife and mother was called to her final rest, and on the 14th of April, 1901, Mr. Cree was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Mabel (Muckey) Hutchinson. She is a native of Page county, where she was reared and educated, and is a daughter of Jasper and Emma Muckey, early settlers of Iowa, coming originally from New York. Jasper Muckey, the father, was born in Schenectady county, New York, on the 11th of May, 1828, and in 1869 removed to Page county, Iowa. Later he sold his farm there and removed to Sharpsburg, where he passed away on the 25th of January, 1907. In 1850 he had married Miss Emma McQueen, also a native of the Empire state, who still survives and makes her home in Sharpsburg. They were the parents of eleven children, all of whom reached mature years, while two sons and eight daughters are still living. By her former marriage Mrs. Cree has one son, Doyle W. Hutchinson, who is now attending the public schools.



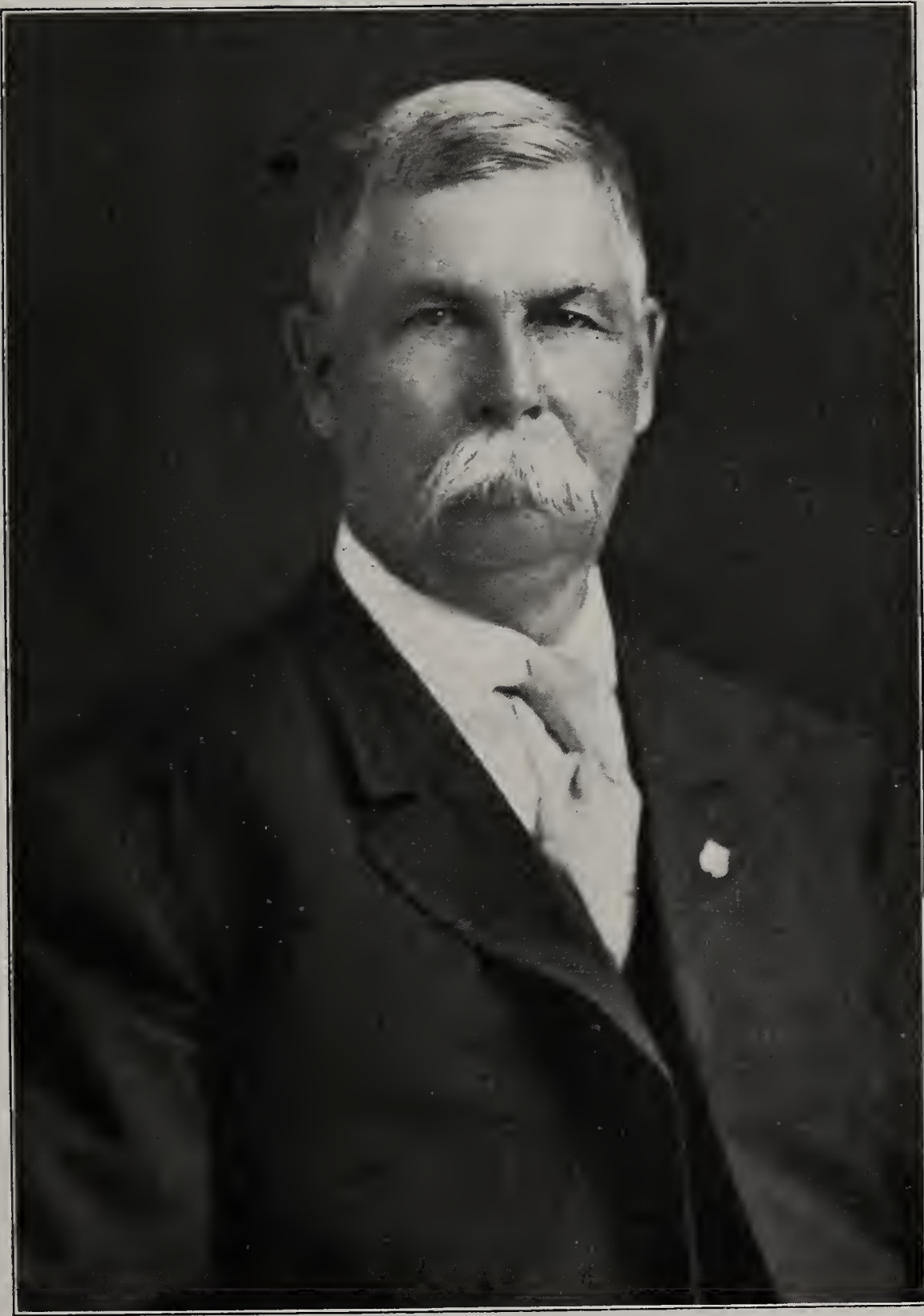
Mr. Cree exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party, doing all in his power to further the interests of that organization in the community, although he has never sought nor desired public office as the reward for party fealty. He has rather preferred to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs and is justly accounted one of the representative and substantial farmers of the community, while his many good traits of character make him honored and respected by all with whom he has come in contact.

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#### FIELDING B. WEBB.

Fielding B. Webb, mastering the lessons of life day by day until his post-graduate work in the school of experience has placed him with the enterprising and successful business men of Bedford, is now engaged in dealing in grain and coal. His trade, already large, is constantly increasing, for his business methods are such as commend him to a liberal and continued patronage. A native of Knox county, Illinois, he was borne near Maquon, April 30, 1851, and is a representative in the paternal line of an old southern family. His grandfather was Valentine Webb, who removed from Virginia to Ohio and died in Franklin county in the latter state when in middle life. He married a Miss Weeks, who died when comparatively young. Their son, Luke Webb, father of F. B. Webb, was born in Ohio and became a practicing dentist. He married Melvina Allen, also a native of Ohio and a daughter of John B. and Belinda (Bull) Allen, natives of Ohio and Maryland respectively. The former was a cousin of Colonel Ethan Allen, who won undying fame in command of the Green Mountain boys at the battle of Ticonderoga in the Revolutionary war. John B. Allen was a farmer by occupation and lived to be nearly eighty years of age. His wife died just a few years before, when about seventy years of age. His last days were spent in Knox county, Illinois, upon land which he had entered from the government during pioneer times. In their family were six sons and three daughters: Dixon; Melvin V., a practicing physician of Chicago; Henry C.; Elias V.; Marion; Ethan; Melvina; Zemira; and Elizabeth.

Of this number Melvina Allen became the wife of Luke Webb, who about 1848 removed westward to Illinois and for some years engaged in the practice of dentistry in that state. In 1875, he arrived in Iowa and his last days were spent in Bedford, where his death occurred in 1900, when he had reached the age of sixty-seven. He was a devoted member of the Methodist church, to which his widow also belongs. She still survives him and now lives with her daughter Belle at Pleasanton, Kansas. In the family of this worthy couple were eight children, four sons and four daughters: Henry C., a resident of Bedford; Fielding B., of this review; John V. and William E., who likewise make their home in Bedford; Martha, the wife of Horace Smith, of Dillon, Colorado; Luella, the wife of Edwin Bundy, of Denver, Colorado; Belle C., the wife of J. W. Langdon, of Pleasanton, Kansas; and Lizzie, the wife of George W. Palmer, of Denver, Colorado.



F. B. WEBB





Fielding B. Webb was reared in Knox county, Illinois, upon the home farm, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He attended the district schools and lived at home until he had attained his majority. He then began farming on his own account and remained a resident of Illinois until 1875, when he came to Bedford. Here he learned the milling business but in 1879 embarked in the grain and coal trade, in which he has since continued, being one of the oldest merchants in this line in southwestern Iowa. His reliable business methods, his promptness in executing orders and his close conformity to a high standard of commercial ethics have brought to him a constantly growing patronage, making him one of the prosperous citizens of the community.

On the 28th of November, 1877, Mr. Webb was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Elizabeth Child, a native of New York, as were her parents, Erastus and Rachel (Foster) Child. They removed to Illinois in 1855, settling in Knox county, and there their two children reached adult age. The younger daughter is Mrs. Julia Torrence, the wife of Thomas Torrence of Monmouth, Illinois. The father is living in Bedford at the very venerable age of ninety-two years, while the mother passed away September 6, 1906, when about eighty-seven years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Webb have become the parents of one child, Grace I., who is still under the parental roof. They hold membership in the Methodist church, in which Mr. Webb is a trustee. He is numbered among the exemplary members of Taylor Lodge, No. 156, F. & A. M., Triangle Chapter, No. 68, R. A. M., Creston Commandery, No. 29, K. T., and Moila Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of St. Joseph, Missouri. His political support is given to the republican party, for he deems its principles most conducive to good government. He does not seek nor desire office as the reward for party fealty, preferring to concentrate his energies upon business affairs rather than to fill political positions. His life has been in a way quietly passed but the record is one which may well be followed by those who seek advancement in accordance with a high standard of business ethics, as his record proves that success and an honored name may be won simultaneously.

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#### S. E. WAINWRIGHT.

The enterprising town of Lenox finds a well-known representative of its business interests in S. E. Wainwright, who for eight years has been connected with the lumber trade at this place. He has made his home in Iowa since 1869 and has lived within the borders of Taylor county since 1893. He is numbered among the native sons of Illinois, his birth having occurred near Rockford, in Winnebago county, on the 9th of May, 1867. He was therefore only two years old when his parents crossed the Mississippi into this state, taking up their abode upon a farm near Keokuk, where the subject of this review was reared. He was trained to habits of industry, economy and integrity, and his intellectual discipline was received in the schools of Malvern, Iowa, and in the Gem City Business College



of Quincy, Illinois, where he completed a course and was graduated. Being thus well qualified for the onerous and responsible duties of a business career he started out in life for himself at Sharpsburg, where for six years he was actively associated with the lumber and grain trade, and also conducted a banking business. He afterward disposed of his interests there and removed to Lenox, where he bought out a lumber business and later a grain business. His operations in this line are scarcely equaled and hardly surpassed by any dealer in the county, the extent of his purchases and sales making him one of the foremost representatives of this line of trade in Taylor county. A man of resourceful business ability, he has also extended his labors into other fields and is now conducting a profitable enterprise in the manufacture of cement blocks. In the fall of 1908, he built a garage and put in a stock of automobiles, carrying some of the best-known makes of motor cars. He is a stockholder in the State Savings Bank and his father is a stockholder in the First National Bank at Lenox. Mr. Wainwright is justly accounted one of the most active and prosperous business men of this part of the state, and his enterprise is of direct value to the community because of the amount of money which is thereby kept in circulation and the fact that he gives employment to from six to eight men throughout the year.

In 1890, Mr. Wainwright was united in marriage to Miss Anna Wolf, who is a native of Kansas but was reared in Iowa. She enjoyed liberal educational privileges and for some years successfully engaged in teaching, after which she became assistant cashier in the Sharpsburg Bank. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wainwright are members of the Lenox Presbyterian church and fraternally he is connected with the Odd Fellows, and also the Knights of Pythias lodge at Lenox. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and for three years he served as a member of the city council, exerting his official prerogatives in support of many measures for the public good. He has erected an attractive and modern residence in Lenox which is the abode of warm-hearted hospitality and the center of a cultured social circle. He also materially aided in advancing the interests of the town and the surrounding country, possessing the spirit of determination which enables him to accomplish whatever he undertakes, while his success at all times has been won by methods which neither seek nor require disguise.

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#### S. L. PAYTON.

S. L. Payton, who owns an excellent farm of three hundred and sixty acres on section 21, Gay township, where he engages in general agricultural pursuits and also makes a specialty of raising pure blooded stock, is meeting with success in his enterprise and is ranked among the prosperous and substantial farmers of this township. A native of Illinois, he was born in Henry county on the 7th of October, 1862, and is a son of Melchior and Mary (Schaefer) Payton, the former a retired farmer of Bedford, Iowa.

S. L. Payton remained in his native county until thirteen years of age when, in 1875, he accompanied his parents on their removal to Iowa, settlement being made in Taylor county. His education, which had been begun in Illinois, was com-

pleted in the common schools of Iowa, and he remained upon his father's farm throughout the period of his boyhood and youth, devoting the time not given to his text-books to assisting his father in his agricultural pursuits. He early became familiar with the tasks that fall to the lot of the country lad and under the direction of his father learned practical lessons concerning the value of diligence, industry and perseverance.

Mr. Payton remained at home until the year 1883, when he was united in marriage in Clayton township to Miss Maggie Woods, a native of Knox county, Illinois, born in 1864. After his marriage he purchased a farm of eighty acres in Gay township, which constitutes a part of his present property. He at once directed his energies toward the improvement of this farm and through his close application and good management soon brought the fields under a high state of cultivation. As the years passed and he prospered he added to his property from time to time until his place today consists of three hundred and sixty acres of excellent land, all highly improved. He has erected thereon a large, comfortable and attractive two-story residence, equipped with all modern conveniences, has built substantial barns and outbuildings, has set out a fine grove and planted a good orchard, consisting of twenty acres of apple trees and five acres of peach trees, which is in good bearing condition. The farm is equipped with all the accessories and devices intended for facilitating farm labor, and in addition to his agricultural pursuits he also engages extensively in the raising and feeding of live stock. He fattens from two to four carloads of cattle and about three carloads of hogs annually, and for some time has made a specialty of breeding and dealing in pure-blooded shorthorn cattle, having now on hand forty cattle with a fine Scotch top male at the head of the herd. For the past five years he has also specialized along the line of breeding Percheron horses, and in the intervening years has raised some very fine specimens. He enjoys a substantial annual income from the fact that both branches of his business—the raising of grain and the raising of live stock—are proving most remunerative.

In 1893 Mrs. Payton was called to her final rest and left, besides her husband, two sons to mourn her loss, Ralph and Guy, who are now aiding in the operation of the home farm. In June, 1894, in Bedford, Iowa, Mr. Payton was again married, his second union being with Miss Inez Parish, a native of Taylor county, where she was reared and educated. Unto this union have been born four children, three of whom still survive, namely, Alice, Howard W. and Jessie. One daughter passed away at the age of eleven years. Mr. and Mrs. Payton are both members of Gay Center Methodist Episcopal church, the teachings of which form the guiding influence of their lives. Both are deeply interested in the church work, Mr. Payton acting in the capacity of steward, while his wife is prominent in Sunday-school work, being at present the superintendent thereof.

Politically Mr. Payton gives stalwart allegiance to the republican party and served as township trustee for several years. He was likewise elected and served four years as a member of the board of supervisors, and is public-spirited in his citizenship, lending his aid and influence at all times to matters and measures having for their object the permanent and substantial growth and progress of the community. Throughout his years of residence in Taylor county he has witnessed the various improvements which have been instituted in both Blockton and Bed-



ford and saw the first railroad built through these towns, while he has rejoiced at the progress which has been made in recent years and at all times has exerted an influence to further the work thereof. A man of keen business ability, he has worked his way upward in the agricultural world until today he stands as one of the prominent and representative farmers of Gay township.

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K. L. FULLER.

Near the town of Blockton, Jefferson township, is the home of K. L. Fuller, whose prosperity is indicated in his ownership of a valuable farm property of two hundred and eighty acres. Thereon he engages in the raising of grain and stock and is also well known as a buyer and shipper of stock. He is unfaltering in his business activity and seems to know exactly when and where and how to invest that his labors shall bring the best possible return. Iowa has numbered him among her residents since 1881 and after living in Mahaska county for about eight years he took up his abode in Taylor county in 1889.

Mr. Fuller was at that time a young man of twenty years, his birth having occurred in Greene county, Pennsylvania, July 27, 1869. His father, D. E. Fuller, was also born and reared in the Keystone state and when he had obtained his majority he was married there to Miss Amy E. Lynch, a native of Pennsylvania. The young couple began their domestic life upon that farm in Greene county where they lived for a considerable period, during which time six children were born unto them. The tales which he heard concerning the middle west, however, proved to him irresistibly attractive and, believing that he would have better opportunities beyond the Mississippi, he removed to Iowa about 1878 and settled in Mahaska county, where he resided for five or six years. He made his home during that period near Oskaloosa and subsequently he took up his abode in Taylor county, where he resided for a number of years and then went to Reno county, Kansas. He continued a resident of that locality until his demise which occurred about 1895. He is yet survived by his widow, who is still making her home in the Sunflower State.

K. L. Fuller spent his youthful days in Pennsylvania and in Iowa, accompanying his parents on their removal westward. His educational opportunities were those offered by the public schools of the two states. He remained with his father until about twenty years of age and in the meantime accompanied his parents to Kansas, where he lived for about three years. He then returned to Taylor county, where he sought and secured employment as a farm hand, working by the month for four years, the entire time being spent in the employ of Mr. Keenan. This fact alone indicates his faithfulness and the ability with which he served his employer.

On the 22d of February, 1883, desiring to have a home of his own, Mr. Fuller was married to Miss Dora E. Babson, who was born and reared in Franklin county, Iowa. Following their marriage Mr. Fuller rented land which he cultivated for three years and then for seven years rented the farm, upon which he now resides. At the end of that time his wife inherited one-half of the amount

and Mr. Fuller purchased the other half. He has bent his energies with indefatigable purpose to the further development and improvement of the place, has erected a commodious and substantial residence there, has also put up a good barn and set out a nice grove of forest trees upon the place and his farm altogether presents a most neat and well kept appearance. As he has prospered in his undertakings he has made other investments in property and is now the owner of three-fourths of a section of land in Texas and an eighty-acre farm in Oklahoma and one hundred and sixty acres in Nebraska. In addition to the cultivation which he bestows upon his Iowa land, he is engaged in buying, feeding and dealing in live stock, which business has claimed much of his attention for a number of years. His judgement is seldom, if ever, at error in regard to the value of live stock and he has thus been enabled to secure good profit on his labors as a dealer.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Fuller has been blessed with four children but Gale E., the eldest, died at the age of seven years. The others are: James Clifford, Dorothy M. and Amy Marie. The family are well known in their part of the county and the hospitality of the best homes of the neighborhood is freely and generously accorded them. Mr. Fuller, since age conferred upon him the right of franchise has voted with the democracy but, though having firm belief in its principles, has never been ambitious to hold office. He belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge at Blockton and in social, business and political circles is well known, being regarded throughout southwestern Iowa and northeastern Missouri as a man of good business capacity and of exemplary habits, whose industry and determination have constituted the salient features in his success and made his example one well worthy of emulation.

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#### CHARLES H. HUNTER.

Charles H. Hunter is numbered among the numerous farmers of Gay township, where he is now serving as assessor. He lives on section 15, where he owns a well-improved and valuable farm of eighty acres, and he also controls and operates an adjoining tract of eighty acres. A native of Illinois, he was born near Springfield, in Sangamon county, August 10, 1874, and is a son of John Hunter and a brother of Paul Hunter, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. The father was a native of England and when a young man of eighteen years bade adieu to friends and native country and sailed for the United States, settling first in Illinois. He was married there to Miss Mary Weir, a native of Illinois, and taking up his abode in that state Mr. Hunter was there connected with business affairs for some time. In 1874 he arrived in Iowa and took up his abode upon the place now owned and occupied by C. H. Hunter. The land on which he settled was wild and unimproved but he at once began using the breaking plow and soon changed the wild prairie into richly cultivated fields. He knew, however, that to keep a farm in excellent condition constant care, and consideration of the financial side of the question was required, and he therefore labored diligently and persistently to win his prosperity. His last years were



spent on the home place, where he died June 1, 1900. He served for some years as township school treasurer and was a member of the township board. His fellow-townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, called him to several offices, the duties of which he discharged in a most prompt and creditable manner. His wife survived him for about four years and died in 1904.

Charles H. Hunter was brought to Iowa an infant in his mother's arms and was reared to manhood under the parental roof. The educational advantages which he received were those offered by the county schools but his opportunities were somewhat limited for his services were needed in tilling the soil. He remained with his father in the care and development of the farm until after he had attained his majority and later succeeded to the ownership of eighty acres. He has since erected thereon a good, neat residence, has fenced his place and is continually planning further improvements which will add to the value of the land. In addition to his home farm he has for some years cultivated eighty acres which belong to his sisters Cora and Lillie. The fields bring forth abundant harvests for which he finds a ready sale on the market and he also has no difficulty in disposing of the high-grade stock he raises. He handles hogs, cattle and horses and his annual income is materially increased thereby.

On the 31st of August, 1904, Mr. Hunter was united in marriage, in Bedford, to Miss Maggie Frost, who was born in Gay township and was educated there. She is a daughter of Newton Frost, formerly from Greene county, Pennsylvania. Politically Mr. Hunter is a republican and has voted with the party since casting his first ballot for Major William McKinley. He has since supported every nominee at the head of the ticket and at all times he has kept well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He was appointed to fill out a term as township trustee in the fall of 1908 and was elected assessor and made one assessment of Gay township. Mr. Hunter has been a resident of the county for thirty-five years, during which period he has been a witness of much of the growth and development that has occurred. He has greatly desired the progress of the county and has therefore cooperated in measures which have had direct bearing upon its growth.

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#### LEONARD T. McCOUN.

Leonard T. McCoun is a veteran of the Mexican war and also of the Civil war; is a pioneer settler of Taylor county; and is numbered among the lawyers and law makers of the state. All these facts combined make him worthy of representation in the history of Taylor county, within the borders of which he has resided for more than a half century. A native of Kentucky, Mr. McCoun was born in Woodford county, May 6, 1832. His paternal grandfather, John S. McCoun, was likewise a native of that state, where he passed away after reaching mature life. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Nancy Slaughter, died when well advanced in years. Both were of Scotch descent. They reared a family of several children, including John S. McCoun, who was born in Kentucky and became a physician and surgeon. In 1842 he removed to Danville,



Indiana, but was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, for his death there occurred in 1844, when he was about forty-five years of age. In early manhood he had wedded Elizabeth Munday, who was likewise born in the Blue Grass State and was a daughter of Thomas Munday, a native of Kentucky, who established a ferry on the Kentucky River near Harrodsburg, and also built flat-boats. That place is now called Munday's Landing. He died of cholera when past middle life and his wife, who was called "Sookie" (Slaughter) Munday, also died in middle life. The death of Mrs. Elizabeth McCoun occurred in 1833, and for his second wife Dr. McCoun chose Miss Arsena Towles. There were two children of the first union, Leonard T. and Elizabeth, but the latter died in early childhood. The children of the second marriage are: Nancy, now the widow of Harlan Hadley, and a resident of Danville, Indiana; and Fidelia, the wife of James L. McCoun, of Danville, Indiana.

Leonard T. McCoun was ten years of age when he accompanied his parents on their removal from Kentucky to Indiana, being reared in Danville. His education was largely acquired in the public schools and in the seminary there. He was only twelve years of age when his father died and was a youth of sixteen when he enlisted in the regular army and went as a recruit to Vera Cruz. There he was assigned to Company E, of the Second Regular Infantry, under command of Colonel Riley, while General Lyon of Civil war fame was at that time first lieutenant and was brevetted captain. Mr. McCoun served for one year in the regular army and in the organization of the militia on the border in 1861, he was elected lieutenant colonel of the regiment, the superior officer being Colonel Morledge. In 1862 he raised a company at Bedford, which became known as Company G, of the Fourth Missouri Cavalry. The company went to St. Joseph, Missouri, and there joined the regiment, and Mr. McCoun was chosen captain. He was with that command for more than a year, when, on account of ill health, he was obliged to resign. While at home at Bedford, in the fall of 1863, he was elected captain of Company B, of the Border Brigade, and so served until the following May. Subsequent to that time he raised Company D, of the Forty-sixth Iowa Volunteer Infantry and was with that command during its time of service—one hundred days. The regiment was commanded by Colonel D. B. Henderson, afterward speaker of the national house of representatives.

When the war was over Captain McCoun returned to Bedford and resumed the practice of law, for which he had previously qualified. He was admitted to the bar in February, 1856, at Danville, Indiana, and came to Bedford that year but did not locate here permanently until 1857. He is today the oldest practicing lawyer in Taylor county and throughout the entire period has been regarded as a representative member of the bar because of the ability which he has displayed in handling the legal interests entrusted to his care. He was also elected judge of the probate court in 1861 but resigned that position in 1862, in order to join the army.

Pleasantly situated in his home relations, Mr. McCoun was married on the 12th of December, 1849, to Miss Sarah D. Mahan, a daughter of John and Nancy (Woodson) Mahan. Mrs. McCoun was born in Mercer county, Kentucky, and her father was a native of that state, while her mother's birth occurred in Virginia. Their family numbered nine children, of whom three are now liv-



ing: Eliza, the widow of Joseph Lewis and a resident of Pittsburg, Indiana; Mrs. McCoun; and Indiana V., the wife of G. W. Turner, of Bedford.

When Mr. and Mrs. McCoun came to Bedford he purchased one hundred acres of land, for which he paid six hundred dollars, and he added to that, eighty acres. He brought his farm under a high state of cultivation but afterward sold the entire property with the exception of a tract of twenty acres, on which he resides and which constitutes an ideal home. In addition to this property he owns a large farm in Ross township, Taylor county. While carefully managing his business affairs and conducting his law practice—in both of which he has been very successful—Mr. McCoun is also supervising the interests of his own household. Unto him and his wife were born seven children, but the eldest, Nancy, died when eight years of age. John, who became a lawyer and practiced in Bedford, died in 1898. Mary J. is the widow of C. W. Connett, who was an engineer on the railroad and was killed in an accident. Emma died in early childhood. Martha died in infancy. William, who is a mason by trade, married Alma Bates, and after her death wedded Nellie Boner. The other child of the family died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. McCoun are devoted members of the Christian church and he belongs to Taylor Lodge, No. 156, A. F. & A. M. and to Sedgwick Post, G. A. R. He has long been recognized as one of the most prominent representatives in his district and was a member of the twelfth and thirteenth general assemblies of Iowa. He became county prosecutor and served for two terms, so that his official service has always been in the path of his profession. He owns a beautiful home just west of the corporation limits of Bedford, situated in the midst of a fine tract of land of twenty acres and there he spends his summer months, while in the winter season he occupies a good home which he owns in town. He is one of the old settlers of Taylor county and has watched with pride its growth and development as it has been transformed from a wilderness into one of the leading counties of the state. Throughout all these years he and his wife have been held in highest esteem here because of their many excellent traits of character. As a lawyer he ranks high, possessing an analytical mind and is noted as a successful pleader at the bar, having won many celebrated cases. Although he has now reached the age of seventy-seven years, he still remains in active connection with the profession and with public interests. In spirit he seems yet in his prime. Old age does not necessarily suggest helplessness or want of occupation. There is an old age which grows stronger and brighter mentally and physically as the years go by and continually gives out of its rich store of wisdom and experience, and such is the record of Leonard T. McCoun.

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#### HENRI WALTER.

The general farming and stock-raising interests of Taylor county find a worthy and well-known representative in Henri Walter, who for more than four decades has lived in this part of the state. For a long period he was closely connected with the agricultural life and still maintains a deep interest therein, although since 1902 he has lived retired in Lenox, the success which he achieved



in former years being sufficient to permit him now to rest from further labor in the fields. His history, too, is an example of what can be accomplished in this free land of ours, where labor is unhampered by caste or class. He was born in Switzerland, October 14, 1844, and was brought to the new world by his parents in 1853, the family home being established in Monroe county, Ohio, where his father died, the mother surviving him for some time.

Henri Walter was the youngest of a family of six sons and five daughters and after coming to the United States remained on the farm with his mother until he had attained his majority. He was married in Ohio, in 1867, to Miss Louisa Schafroth, a native of Switzerland who came to the United States in her early girlhood days. The young couple began their domestic life upon a farm in Monroe county, Ohio, where they lived for a year and then came to Adams county, Iowa, after which Mr. Walter rented land and thus carried on farming for several years. During that period he carefully saved his earnings and purchased forty acres of raw land, where he soon had the breaking plow at work. He thus opened up a farm four miles southeast of Corning and later bought more land. He then sold the forty-acre tract and invested in one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie. This he converted into productive fields and still owns the property, which is a valuable farm southeast of Corning. As time passed and his financial resources increased he added to his landed possessions from time to time and is now the owner of four hundred acres in one farm in Adams county and another farm of five hundred and sixty acres, both being well-improved and valuable properties. His possessions are the visible evidence of his life of well-directed energy and thrift. Year after year he carefully tilled the soil and gathered rich crops as a reward for the labor he bestowed upon his fields. In his pastures were found good grades of stock which he raised and fed, selling at a good price on the market. In 1902 he bought the farm whereon he now resides adjoining the corporation limits of Lenox. This is a well-improved and valuable property. He has built to and remodeled the house, has built a barn, and altogether has made this an attractive place. He has likewise invested in another farm of four hundred and eighty acres three miles east of Lenox and he owns another tract of one hundred and sixty acres west of Lenox and a quarter section in Adams county, in addition to the property previously described. All of his land is well improved and he is today one of the most prosperous farmers of this part of the state.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Walter have been born eleven children, of whom six sons and three daughters are yet living. Their first born, Edmund, reached mature years and died about 1900. J. J. is a prominent farmer and stock feeder of Lenox, mentioned elsewhere in this volume. John is a resident farmer of Grove township. Henry A. follows farming in Adams county. Andrew and Louis are also resident farmers of Adams county. Ben assists in the operation of the home farm. Ella is the wife of Simon Hufnagle, a farmer of Platt township. Maleta is the wife of James Ely, who follows farming in Platt township; and Delia is at home. They lost a daughter, Ida, at the age of two years.

Mr. Walter votes with the republican ticket, but has never sought nor desired office. His life has been an active and strenuous one in which has been few leisure hours. As the years have gone by, however, he has prospered in his



undertakings and his success is the direct result of his perseverance, diligence and careful investment. His life record should serve to encourage and inspire others, showing what may be accomplished if one has the will to persevere in a chosen field of labor.

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#### ROBERT W. HARVEY.

Robert W. Harvey, a retired farmer and stockraiser, who in his seventy-ninth year, is now enjoying a well earned rest after many years of earnest and honorable labor, is a native of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Clermont county, May 31, 1830. There on his father's farm he grew to manhood, in the meantime acquiring a good common-school education which fitted him for the practical and responsible duties of life. He remained at home, assisting his father in the cultivation of his fields until the latter's death, after which he devoted himself to caring for his widowed mother. In 1851, in Clermont county, he was married to Rhoda Cazel, who was also a native of Ohio. After his marriage, Mr. Harvey engaged in farming on the old home place and was thus actively connected with agricultural pursuits until May, 1864, when, putting aside all business and personal considerations, he enlisted as a soldier in the Civil war, becoming a member of Company H, Fifty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He went south with this regiment and participated in a number of engagements, among the most important being that at Harpers Ferry. He was in several skirmishes and did much picket duty. He continued in active service until the close of the war, when he was mustered out at Camp Dennison and was honorably discharged at Columbus in September, 1865.

When his country no longer needed his services, Mr. Harvey returned home, and in the following year, 1866, he sold the old home farm and removed to Knox county, Illinois, where he purchased eighty acres of land. He continued to operate this farm until 1869, when, selling that property, he came to Iowa and invested in three hundred and twenty acres in Gay township, Taylor county, upon which he located in the fall of 1870. When the place came into his possession, it was all raw land, but with characteristic industry and perseverance he broke the sod, divided the land into fields of convenient size, planted the cereals best adapted to soil and climate, built a good barn and house and continued to cultivate and improve the place until it became a valuable and desirable farm. He became a successful agriculturist and as he prospered he added to his realty possessions, later purchasing three hundred and twenty acres of raw land. He set out a good grove and an orchard, which in time bore rich fruit, and also erected new farm buildings. In addition to general farming, he engaged in the raising and feeding of stock, making a specialty of dealing in horses. He also specialized along the line of Poland China hogs, being the first to introduce that variety into his section of the county, having purchased his stock during his residence in Illinois. He resided upon his farm until the spring of 1888, when the high degree of prosperity to which he had attained made it possible for him to retire from active work. He came to Blockton and erected a







MR. AND MRS. R. W. HARVEY



RHODA CAZELL HARVEY





fine residence for himself and family, also building several other houses, some of which he later sold. He was one of the organizers of the First National Bank and is now one of its stockholders.

After his arrival in this city, in 1891, Mr. Harvey was called upon to mourn the death of his wife, her remains being interred in the Platteville cemetery. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey had been blessed with five sons and three daughters, namely: Joseph, a resident of Fort Morgan, Colorado; William, resident of Bedford; Milton, following agricultural pursuits in Gay township; Frank, operating the home farm; Mary E., the widow of C. C. Wolford, residing in Enid, Oklahoma; Clara, the wife of Orin Kivey of St. Joseph, Missouri; Mattie, who wedded Earl Gray, a farmer of Jefferson township; and George, a stock dealer and shipper, who grew to mature years, was married and has passed away in Kansas. Unto each of his sons, Mr. Harvey gave eighty acres of farm land, while to each daughter at her marriage he gave five hundred dollars in money. He still owns a farm of two hundred and forty acres.

On the 16th of May, 1895, Mr. Harvey was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Fanny Marie Howey, a native of Columbus, Ohio, where she was reared and educated. She had previously wedded Samuel Howey and they made their home for some years in Columbus. Mr. Howey was a school teacher and for several years was superintendent of the city schools. By her first marriage, Mrs. Harvey became the mother of two sons and a daughter, namely: Montgomery, a resident of Chicago; William, living in Kansas; and Viola S., the wife of C. H. Sandusky, making her home in Columbus, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey are both members of the Blockton Methodist Episcopal church, the former joining when but a lad of thirteen years, while the latter became a member of the Presbyterian denomination at the age of fourteen years. Both are deeply and actively interested in the church and Sunday-school work and are people of great personal worth and of high standing in the community. Mr. Harvey maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades through his membership in Blockton Post, G. A. R. In politics, he is a republican, casting his first ballot in 1856 for John C. Fremont, and has voted for each republican presidential nominee since that time. He served as trustee of his township and for several years was a member of the school board, the cause of education finding in him a stalwart champion. Public-spirited to an eminent degree, he is greatly interested in all matters and measures pertaining to the material, intellectual and moral upbuilding and development of the community and at all times remains as true and loyal to his country as when fighting on southern battlefields.

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#### S. N. BRISTOW.

S. N. Bristow, who is carrying on general farming on section 24, Clayton township, his time and energies also being devoted to the raising and feeding of stock, is numbered among the native sons of Taylor county, his birth having occurred near Bedford, April 6, 1867. He is a son of S. P. and Nancy (Quack-



enbush) Bristow, natives of Preble county, Ohio and of Indiana, respectively. The father was reared to manhood upon a farm in his native county and in 1865, when a young man, came to Iowa, settling in Taylor county. Here he met and married Miss Nancy Quackenbush and soon afterward he began to open up a new farm in Clayton township, being numbered among the early settlers there. He built a brick house near Bedford, hauling the material from St. Joseph, Missouri, for there was no nearer market where brick could be secured. The spirit of progress, enterprise and improvement characterized him in all of his work and his labors were attended with a measure of success which made him one of the prosperous and representative farmers of the community. At length he sold the old home place and bought a farm of two hundred acres in Benton township, upon which he spent his last years, there passing away in 1889. His wife survives him and is now a resident of Bedford. Mr. Bristow was recognized as a man of sterling worth and his labors were not only a source of prosperity to himself but were also a factor in the substantial growth and development of the county.

S. N. Bristow is one of a family of four sons and two daughters. Upon the home farm near Bedford he was reared, no event of special importance occurring to vary the routine of life for him in his boyhood and youth. He early gained practical knowledge of the best methods of tilling the soil and in the acquirement of a literary education he attended the district schools and the Bedford high school. After the death of his father he remained with his mother until twenty-two years of age and carried on the home place. His early training now stood him to good purpose and although a young man he manifested keen discernment and business ability in managing the interests of the farm.

At length he completed his arrangements for having a home of his own by his marriage in Benton township on the 9th of February, 1898, to Miss Lillie Dopp, who was born and reared in South Dakota and was a daughter of Charles Dopp of that state. Mr. Bristow had previously purchased eighty acres of land and at the time of his marriage took his bride to his farm, bending every energy to its development and improvement that the fields might return to him bounteous harvests which would enable him to meet all the requirements of the household. That he was diligent and practical in his work is indicated in the fact that he was at length enabled to make investment in other land, purchasing an adjoining tract of eighty acres. He then removed the house to its present site, built a barn, fenced his fields and has further carried on the work of improvement until his property is now a valuable and attractive one, constituting one of the pleasing features of the landscape. He has two orchards upon the place together with a good grove of trees and in addition to cultivating the corn and other crops best adapted to soil and climate, he is successfully and extensively carrying on stock raising, making a specialty of pure-blooded Duroc Jersey hogs and Percheron horses. He has raised some fine animals, selling one yearling in 1909 for four hundred dollars and also some fine graded cattle for one hundred dollars per head. He has a polled Angus bull at the head of his herd and also owns some fine shorthorn cows. At different times he has sold many head of good cattle and his efforts have been effective forces in promoting the stock raising interests of the community.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bristow have been born two children: Vera and Harold D. The parents hold membership in the Baptist church which is located on their farm and are active and helpful workers in both the church and Sunday-school. In his political views Mr. Bristow is an earnest republican and has served as a member of the town board, acting at the present time for the second term as township trustee. He has also been a member of the school board and is interested in every measure or movement that tends to promote the best interests of the community in the lines of material, intellectual, political, social and moral advancement. He is honored wherever known and most of all where best known, for his record is such as merits the friendship and regard of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

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### HERMANUS H. JOHNSTON.

Among the many men to whom the material advancement of Taylor county is to be attributed may be named Hermanus H. Johnston, who was born in Highland county, Ohio, October 30, 1835. His father, A. S. Johnston, was born in New York city, in the year 1798, and as he was left an orphan when but a few years old he had early to shift for himself. He went to Ohio and took up farming in Highland county, where he was married and lived until 1849, when he came to Iowa and settled in Jasper county. For about twenty years he remained in Jasper county and then in 1869 came to Taylor county, purchasing the old Gravity farm in Washington township. On that he lived for two years, when, owing to impaired health, he was compelled to give up the active pursuit of his calling. He returned then to Jasper county, where he died at the age of eighty-seven. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Emily McClure, was a native of Virginia and died in Jasper county about eight years ago at the age of eighty-two.

Hermanus H. Johnston was twelve years of age when his parents left their Ohio home and came to this state, and he can well remember the trip across the prairies which was made by teams as the railroads had not yet reached this part of the country. Having arrived here he can remember also some of the hardships of the time, one of them being the fact that they had to go thirty miles to the nearest mill. But then this was less of a hardship than might at first seem, for it was quite an event in the little community to bring the flour to and from the mill; it broke in upon the monotony of the necessary daily toil and often exciting incidents might be met with on the route that would be accorded a flattering hearing when the boy returned. Mr. Johnston later established a sawmill in Jasper county, besides following agricultural pursuits. In 1869, when the family came to Taylor county, he it was who drove the team. As the result of his many years of toil he had two thousand dollars, with which he purchased three hundred and twenty acres of unimproved land and on this he has lived ever since. He first built a modest home, from lumber hauled from Afton, Iowa, and then in 1881 erected his present residence, which is one of the finest in the township. Successful beyond the average, he has earned every cent which has



come into his possession and at one time owned over a thousand acres. Now he holds six hundred in his possession, while he has assisted one son to buy one hundred and sixty acres and another eighty.

In Jasper county, in December, 1856, Mr. Johnston was married to Miss Martha A. Cowman, who was born in Highland county, Ohio, and six children blessed this union: Lottie Marie, who is now the wife of Lewis Blakesley, of Gravity, Iowa; Emerson J., who married Miss Mary Richardson and is a farmer of Holt township; Laura A., who is the wife of Charles Morris, living in California; Minnie, who is at home; William A., also at home; and Erdine Florence, who is the wife of George Beemer, a farmer of Holt township.

Mrs. Johnston is a member of the Christian church but Mr. Johnston does not give allegiance to any religious denomination. He has always been a strong supporter of the principles of the republican party and has been very active in political matters and in local affairs. For six years he was a member of the county board of supervisors, for several years served as trustee of the township, and for six years was treasurer of the township school board. A man of proven worth and of sterling integrity, successful in his own concerns, he enjoys the good will and respect of the community in which he lives.

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#### SENATOR RISSER.

Senator Risser is the proprietor of the Maple Grove Stock Farm, a well-improved and valuable tract of land of two hundred and forty acres situated on section 10, Jackson township. In its neat and thrifty appearance it gives evidence of the careful supervision and practical methods of the owner, who has lived in Taylor county since 1903. He is, however, a western man by birth, training and preference, the place of his nativity being Canyon City, Colorado, while the date of his birth was September 17, 1867. His father, Jacob Risser, was a native of Ohio who in early life was taken to Illinois and was reared in McDonough county, that state. There he was married to Miss Jane A. Locke, who was born in Indiana and was reared in McDonough county, Illinois. Jacob Risser became a farmer by occupation, following that pursuit in Illinois for a number of years. He afterward removed to the west, however, taking up his abode near Canyon City, Colorado, where he engaged in ranching. He resided there for fifteen years, on the expiration of which period he took up his abode in Nodaway county, Missouri, purchasing land in Independence township. He owned eight hundred acres, constituting a valuable property, upon which he spent his last years, continuing actively in farming operations until his life's labors were ended in death in 1888. His wife survives him and resides with a daughter near the old home.

Senator Risser, whose name introduces this review, was a youth of fifteen years when the removal was made from Colorado to Nodaway county, Missouri. There he continued through the period of his minority, working on the farm through the summer months while in the winter seasons he attended the common schools. After arriving at years of maturity he began the cultivation of the old

home place, which he continued to operate for three years after his father's death. His entire life has been devoted to general agricultural pursuits and for a time he was the owner of a farm in Nodaway county comprising one hundred and thirty-two acres of land, upon which he lived for seven years. In 1903, however, he sold that property and bought the farm on which he now makes his home. It is today a valuable property in the midst of which stands substantial improvements, including a large barn which he erected. There is also a good grove upon the place and substantial sheds, cribs and other outbuildings. He has divided the farm into fields of convenient size by well-kept fences and his home is an attractive and commodious two-story residence, supplied with all modern equipments and conveniences. Around it spread well-tilled fields and rich pasture lands, and with his farming he raises high-grade stock, handling short-horned cattle, Duroc Jersey hogs and Norman horses, all of high grade.

Mr. Risser was married in Taylor county on the 24th of February, 1891, to Miss Minerva Rowe, who was born in Nodaway county, Missouri, a daughter of Eldridge Rowe, one of the early settlers of Taylor county and a prosperous farmer of Jackson township. Mr. and Mrs. Risser have become parents of four children: Hattie, a student in the Bedford high school; Annie, who is attending a home school; Abbott W. and Leland.

In his political views Mr. Risser is a stanch republican, having supported that party since he attained his majority. He has been officially identified with the schools but has never desired political preferment. His wife is a member of the Baptist church. They are both well known in Bedford and throughout Taylor and Nodaway counties, and a review of their lives show that their many good qualities have won for them the esteem and favorable regard of all with whom they have been brought in contact. They have an extensive circle of acquaintances and their circle of warm friends is almost equally large.

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#### MARTIN C. OWENS.

Martin C. Owens, who since 1905 has resided on a farm of three hundred acres on section 14, Polk township, is carefully tilling the fields and also raising and feeding stock, his annual shipments of cattle and hogs being quite extensive. He also handles horses and his business interests are so carefully planned and well managed that substantial success rewards his labors, making him one of the progressive and prosperous farmers of the locality. His birth occurred February 11, 1856, just across the boundary line in Nodaway county, Missouri. He is one of the three sons of John and Nancy (Linville) Owens, who grew to manhood. His father was a native of Kentucky who was reared in Indiana and was first married there. Subsequently he removed to Missouri, settling in 1848 on the Nodaway river in Nodaway county, where he entered a tract of wild land on which not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made. At later dates he purchased land until he became the owner of three hundred and eighty-eight acres, in the midst of which he erected a neat residence together with substantial



barns and outbuildings. He had one of the finest farms and best improved places in Nodaway county, his unremitting labors and unfaltering energy being the factors which transformed the wild land into rich and productive fields, from which he annually gathered abundant harvests. Upon that farm he reared his family and spent his remaining days. His second wife bore the maiden name of Nancy Linville, was a native of Nodaway county and died there in 1862.

Upon the old homestead farm Martin C. Owens was reared and assisted materially in its development and improvement as the years passed by and his strength increased. His education was acquired in the public schools and through the periods of vacation, even in his early boyhood he aided in the work of the fields and continued to assist his father until the latter's death. He was then made administrator of the estate and later sold the property and made division of the money.

Mr. Owens was a young man of about twenty-three years when in Maryville, Missouri, he was married on the 9th of January, 1879, to Miss Zerilda J. Witt, a daughter of Nelson B. Witt, a native of Missouri, who was born in Buchanan county and was a son of Nelson Witt, Sr., one of the pioneers of that locality and one of the first judges of Buchanan county. The first election held in the county was at his home and the old ballot box, made of mahogany, is still in possession of one of his sons who resides upon the old homestead. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Owens began their domestic life on his father's farm in Nodaway county. He purchased a part of the place and there carried on general agricultural pursuits for more than twenty years, at the end of which time he sold the place and located near Maryville. There he also engaged in farming for four years and later cultivated a farm three miles north of Maryville. As previously stated he came to his present home in 1905 and has diligently pursued the work of further development and improvement here to the present time. His time and energies have been given to the cultivation of various cereals and to the raising and feeding of stock. He fattens a large number of cattle and hogs each year, making an annual shipment of three carloads and he is now getting a carload of horses in good condition for the market. He is an excellent judge of stock, quickly recognizing a valuable animal and seldom is his opinion at fault. Moreover Mr. Owens is justly accounted one of the most progressive farmers of the community, for he utilizes the latest improved machinery to carry on his work and secures all the modern conveniences and accessories that are found upon the model farm of the twentieth century. He puts up all his own ice so that through the summer months the home is well supplied with that cooling commodity.

As the years have gone by children to the number of eleven have been added to the Owens household and eight of the number are still living, as follows: Harley, who is married and resides at Papillion, Nebraska; Roy E., who is married and makes his home in Polk township, this county; Jessie, the wife of Benjamin F. Albright, now of Washington county, Kansas; Nora, the wife of Kelso Fuller, a resident farmer of Polk township; Edwin, a young man, at home; Verna, who is a student in the Hopkins high school; Lola and Neil, both at home. They also lost three children: Anna, who was married and died in Andrew county, Missouri, in 1900 at the age of twenty-three years; Clifford N., who died when but three months old; and James Elmer, when nine months old.



In his political views Mr. Owens has long been a stalwart democrat, for he believes that the principles of that party are most conducive to good government. He served as road overseer in Nodaway county for five or six years but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking, preferring to concentrate his time and energies upon his business affairs. He has, however, been a member of the township board in Polk township and also of the school board and fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen and the Brotherhood of America. He has a very wide acquaintance in Taylor and Nodaway counties where the extent of his business interests has carried him into important relations, while the straightforward, honorable methods which he has ever followed have gained him the respect and good will of all with whom he has been associated. His record proves conclusively that success and an honored name may be won simultaneously.

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#### GEORGE McMASTER.

George McMaster, living on section 26, Ross township, devotes his time and energies to farming, and that his labors have been attended with desirable results is indicated by the fact that he is now the owner of one hundred and sixty-five acres and altogether cultivates two hundred and forty acres in this county. Stock raising is moreover a profitable feature of his business and his life is altogether one of untiring industry, crowned with success. Taylor county numbers him among her native sons for his birth occurred within her borders August 10, 1876. His father, John C. McMaster, was a native of Scotland and of Scotch and Irish lineage. He spent his boyhood days in the land of hills and heather and when a young man came to the new world, locating first in Taylor county, Iowa, where he became the owner of land, for which he traded an ox team. It was covered with brush and not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made on the farm, but he resolutely faced the situation, knowing that much arduous labor would be required to transform the land into rich and productive fields. As time passed he bought more land for annually the sale of his crops gave him a substantial financial return, and as he prospered he invested his earning in farm property until he became the owner of several hundred acres. For a long period he figured as one of the prosperous and well known farmers of this community. He was married in this county to Miss Sarah Thompson, a native of Indiana, and they reared their family upon the farm which continued to be the home of the husband and father until he was called to his final rest, his life's labors being terminated in death on the 4th of March, 1901. His widow still survives him and yet resides on the old home place.

George McMaster was one of a family of ten sons and five daughters and with the exception of one of the sons all are yet living. His youthful days were spent in the usual manner of farm lads. He worked on the old home place from the time of early spring planting until crops were harvested in the late autumn and thus became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He remained with his father and assisted him in cultivating the farm



until twenty-four years of age, when he determined to establish a home of his own.

It was on the 18th of April, 1900, in Elden, Iowa, that Mr. McMaster was united in marriage to Miss Maud Fluke, a native of Illinois, who was reared however, in Iowa. Previous to his marriage, Mr. McMaster had located where he now resides and in the intervening years his labors have been intelligently directed toward the development and improvement of this place which, under his wise supervision, has come to be one of the valuable farm properties of Ross township. He has erected a substantial house and barn, has planted many fine red cedar and evergreen trees and has also set out an orchard which yields its fruits in season and which constitutes one of the attractive features of the place. He also practices the rotation of crops, that he may keep his soil in good condition, and he raises and feeds stock and is also well known as a breeder of and dealer in pure blooded short horned cattle, having now a fine herd of fifty animals upon his place. He likewise raises Jersey hogs and is well known as a leading live stock dealer of the county, making frequent exhibits at the Taylor county fairs, on which occasions he has won numerous premiums.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. McMaster has been blessed with one daughter, Ethel, who is yet under the parental roof. The parents belong to the Union Baptist church and Mr. McMaster has been a life long republican, giving to the party his early support since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He has never held nor desired office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, which have brought him a substantial return. His good qualities are widely recognized and he has many friends in the county where he has lived throughout his entire life.

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#### RAY V. LUCAS.

Ray V. Lucas, editor and proprietor of the Bedford Free Press, of Bedford, Iowa, was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, January 16, 1873. He was one of a family of seven children whose parents were Albert G. and Anna M. (Byers) Lucas, natives of Pennsylvania. His paternal grandfather was Benjamin Franklin Lucas, also a native of the Keystone state and of Scotch-Irish descent. For many years he engaged in the practice of law in Pittsburg and in 1875 removed westward to Missouri, serving as circuit judge at Albany, that state. His course upon the bench and in his practice at the bar was such as won him much more than local reputation as an able and competent attorney. He died in Des Moines, Iowa, at the age of seventy-one years, while his wife, who in her maidenhood was Elizabeth Fox, died when past middle life. Their family numbered three children. The maternal grandfather of Mr. Lucas was born in Pennsylvania and was of Scotch-Irish lineage. He carried on business as a dealer in horses and when a young man, was shot by the Confederates. His widow died shortly after the close of the war. Their family numbered four sons and one daughter.

Albert G. Lucas, father of Ray V. Lucas, was a printer in his young manhood at Kittanning, Pennsylvania. When the Civil war was inaugurated, he was a member of the Pittsburg Zouaves and with that command he enlisted for active duty at the front, becoming a member of the Twenty-third Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. Subsequently he reenlisted in the One Hundred and Eleventh Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, of which he was adjutant. He served throughout the entire period of hostilities, participated in a number of important battles and several times was slightly wounded, although he sustained no very serious injuries. He took part in the siege of Vicksburg, in the military movements around Atlanta and in the march to the sea under General Sherman, and after the war he practiced law in Pittsburg for a number of years in partnership with his father. He also acted as United States district attorney and made an enviable record by reason of his ability in the legal profession during his residence in the east. In 1875, he removed with his family to Grant City, Missouri, where he practiced law for a time, after which he turned his attention to journalism, purchasing and editing the Grant City Star. He was connected with that paper for several years and then removed to Hopkins, Missouri, where he published the Hopkins Journal in partnership with James Pierce, of Des Moines. In 1878, they established the Taylor County (Iowa) Republican and removed to Bedford. They also purchased a number of other papers and at length traded their syndicate interests for the Iowa Homestead at Des Moines, Mr. Lucas removing to that city in 1891. He remained as editor of the Homestead for ten years or until 1901, when he sold out and went to Buffalo, Wyoming, where he purchased the Buffalo Bulletin, which he is still conducting. He is well remembered in journalistic circles of this state and among old friends in the east as a lawyer of prominence and ability. His political allegiance is unfalteringly given to the republican party and both he and his wife are members of the Methodist church. Of their family of two sons and five daughters only four are now living, namely: Bessie, the wife of J. D. Gallup, of Buffalo, Wyoming; Ray V., of this review; Frank E., who is serving as postmaster of Buffalo, Wyoming; Nellie, likewise a resident of Buffalo; Lulu, the deceased wife of Dr. Park Holland; and two who died in infancy.

Ray V. Lucas was only five years of age when brought to Bedford by his parents, so that the following year he became a pupil in the public schools and passed through consecutive grades until he had become a high school student. He entered upon his business career when seventeen years of age through appointment to the position of railway postal clerk. This he resigned in 1900 and bought a newspaper at Earlville, Iowa, conducting it until January, 1906. He then returned to Bedford and purchased the Bedford Free Press, which is a republican newspaper with very progressive proclivities. The plant is one of the finest owned by any country newspaper in the state. Before entering the mail service Mr. Lucas had learned the printer's trade in the office of his father and he and his brother, Frank E., had conducted a job office in Des Moines, so that he brought practical experience to the business when he entered the field of journalism at Earlville. He has made the Free Press a credit to the city and county and has gained for himself an enviable reputation among the younger representatives of newspaper interests in Iowa. On the 18th of May, 1909,



Mr. Lucas was appointed assistant postmaster under his father-in-law, James P. Flick.

On the 4th of June, 1895, Mr. Lucas was married to Miss Maude Flick, a daughter of James P. and Amanda (King) Flick. There are three children of that union: James A., Cora L. and Lucile. Mrs. Lucas is a member of the Methodist church and Mr. Lucas belongs to Taylor Lodge, No. 156, A. F. & A. M., and Triangle Chapter, R. A. M. He is likewise connected with the Knights of Pythias and his record is at all times in harmony with the demands which those orders make upon their members for good citizenship and for uprightness in all the walks of life. He has been aptly termed a man of purpose and this is evidenced not only in his efforts to promote his own success in business lines but also in his indefatigable labor for the welfare of the community in lines of general progress and improvement.

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### JOHN T. SHAW.

The story of the Civil war is a familiar one to John T. Shaw, for he went to the front in defense of the Union and for four years did active military duty. For the past twenty-seven years he has been associated with the business interests of this county as a painter and paper hanger and also as a farmer, and indefatigable industry and strong purpose have constituted important elements in the success which he has enjoyed as the years have gone by. For more than a half century he has lived in Iowa, becoming a resident of Washington county in 1856, while since 1882 he has made his home in Lenox. He has now reached the age of three score years and ten, his birth having occurred in Harrison county, Ohio, on the 11th of May, 1839.

His father, Thomas P. Shaw, was a native of Pennsylvania and was reared and married there, the lady of his choice being Miss Mary Gault, who was also born in the Keystone state. They afterward removed to Ohio, where Mr. Shaw purchased land, owning two farms in Harrison and Carroll counties. He afterward sold his property there and came to Iowa, making investment in farm land in Washington county. For some years he carried on general agricultural pursuits in that district, after which he disposed of his interests there and spent his last years with a son in Indianola, Iowa. His wife survived him for several years. At the time of the Civil war he served with the Thirty-seventh Graybeard Regiment, one of the most famous regiments that the state sent to the front. He was for two years with that command, after which he was mustered out and honorably discharged. Our subject's grandfather, George Shaw, was a soldier in the War of 1812, being a member of the Black Horse Cavalry.

John T. Shaw spent his boyhood and youth in his native state and when a young man came to Iowa with the family, remaining with his father until 1861. He was among the first in the state to respond to the country's call, for hardly had the smoke from Fort Sumter's guns cleared away when, in April, 1861, he responded to the call for three months troops. The regiment, however, was sworn in for three years. He went to the front with the Second Iowa Volunteer In-



MR. AND MRS. JOHN T. SHAW





fantry and after about a year veteranized and joined Company C, of the Eighth Iowa Infantry, with which he served for three years. He participated in the charge at Fort Donelson and the second battle of Shiloh. This was known as the "Hornet's Nest Brigade," because of its fearlessness and the vigor and assurance with which it met the enemy. Mr. Shaw also participated in the Vicksburg campaign, being in battle nearly every day. Later he was in the second fight at Jackson, Mississippi, also at Brandon, and afterward returned to Vicksburg, where the regiment remained for some time. Afterward the troops proceeded to Pocahontas, Tennessee, and the regiment veteranized there, Mr. Shaw returning home on a thirty days furlough. On the expiration of that period they went again to Memphis and were detailed to guard the city. When Forest made his raid into the city the other Union troops succeeded in driving the rebel general out and Mr. Shaw continued on guard duty there until January, 1865, when he went down the Mississippi river to New Orleans, joining the Department of the Gulf. He participated in the last fight in that section of the country at Spanish Fort. He lost no time from sickness or other cause but was always found at his post and was honorably discharged at Mobile, Alabama, in February, 1866. He served for about four years and made a most creditable record as a brave and loyal soldier, keeping duty ever foremost during the long period of the civil strife.

When the war was over Mr. Shaw returned to Washington, Iowa, where he learned the painter's trade and followed that pursuit for a long period. In the same year of his return, he was married in Wapella, Illinois, June 10, 1866, to Miss Mary J. Bryant, who is a daughter of John Whitney and Eveline (Coy) Bryant and a native of Fulton county, Illinois, where she was reared and educated. Her grandfather, William Bryant, was a soldier of the war of 1812, and her brother, William C. Bryant, was a member of the One Hundred and Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil war. In June, 1864, the latter was taken prisoner and died in Andersonville in August of the same year.

Mr. and Mrs. Shaw began their domestic life in Washington, Iowa, where Mr. Shaw carried on business as a painter and paper-hanger until 1868, when he removed to Wapella, Illinois, where he remained for four years. In the spring of 1872, he became a resident of Worthington, Minnesota, where he secured a claim and opened up a farm, carrying on general agricultural pursuits there for four years. He also did some painting and later removed to Winfield, Henry county, Iowa, where his attention was given to general agricultural pursuits. His next place of residence was in Crawfordsville, Iowa, and in 1882, he came to Lenox, where he has since resided. Here he has engaged in painting and paper-hanging, doing a large business which has made him one of the prosperous citizens of the town. He has also been identified with the upbuilding and improvement of Lenox and his cooperation can always be counted upon to further any movement or measure for the public good.

Mr. and Mrs. Shaw have two sons and a daughter: William B., who is a painter and decorator and resides at home; T. E., who served as quartermaster sergeant with the Fourth Missouri Regiment in Cuba, during the Spanish-American war and is with the American Steel & Wire Company, in Portland, Oregon; and Eva, who is now the wife of John Barrans, a farmer of Platte



township. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw also lost two children: Clara Bell, who died at the age of four months; and one who died in infancy.

In his political views, Mr. Shaw is a stalwart republican but while he believes firmly in the principles of the party, he has never sought nor desired office. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Shaw is connected with the Grand Army Post, in which he served as commander for two or three years and was officer of the day for the last fourteen years. His wife is an active member of the Relief Corps and they are both highly esteemed in the city which they have made their home for more than a quarter of a century. From early manhood, Mr. Shaw has been a resident of Iowa and for twenty-seven years has lived in Lenox, during which time he has seen it develop from a cross-roads village to the second city in size in the county. He rejoices in what has been accomplished and at all times has given his aid and cooperation to progressive public movements. In his business affairs he has been found thoroughly reliable and his industry and perseverance have constituted the salient features in the success which is now his.

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#### W. C. FLEMING.

The home farm of W. C. Fleming is situated on section 17, Grant township, where a tract of three hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land yields bountiful harvests in return for the care and labor which he bestows upon it. There are few leisure hours in his life for he is always busily engaged in the improvement of his own farm or in the cultivation of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres belonging to his father-in-law. Taylor county has numbered him among its residents since the year 1874. At the time of his arrival he was a young man of twenty-five years, his birth having occurred in Clearfield county, Pennsylvania, May 22, 1849. His father, Samuel Fleming, was a native of the Keystone State, where he was reared and married, the lady of his choice being Miss Rebecca Bonsall, also a native of Pennsylvania. In the year 1856 the father removed with his family to Illinois, settling in Stark county, near Toulon, where he opened up a new farm and reared his family. Later he removed to Toulon, where his last days were spent, his death occurring December 2, 1907. He had long survived his wife, who passed away in 1866.

Taken to Illinois when a lad of seven summers, W. C. Fleming was reared in Stark county and his education was acquired in the public schools there. Through the summer months he worked in the fields and gained practical knowledge of the best methods of tilling the soil in the cultivation of the cereals best adapted to climatic conditions in this part of the country. He gave his father the benefit of his services until 1874, when he started out upon an independent business venture and coming to Taylor county invested in one hundred and twenty acres of land in Grant township. It was a tract of raw prairie, upon which not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made, but with characteristic energy he used the breaking plow, harrowed and planted his land and in course of time opened up a farm which he continued to cultivate for a decade or until 1884, when he sold

that property and bought one hundred and sixty acres which he now owns. He then bent his energies to the cultivation of that tract and extended its boundaries in 1894 by an additional purchase of eighty acres, while in 1907 he secured eighty acres more, thus becoming owner of the entire half section. All is now well improved and valuable land. He has built a large barn for hay and stock, horses and cattle, it being one of the substantial structures of this character in Grant township. In connection with its farming he raises and feeds stock, fattening three carloads of hogs yearly for the market. This brings him a good return and other departments of his business are also profitable for he annually gathers good crops. The farm presents a neat and attractive appearance, indicating his careful supervision and progressive methods. Its improvement constitutes a profitable business and like all successful business men Mr. Fleming is diligent and enterprising in the conduct of his affairs.

In 1879 Mr. Fleming was united in marriage to Miss Amy Chittenden, who was born in Cass county, Michigan, where she was reared and educated, a daughter of Thomas Chittenden, who came to Iowa from Illinois in 1876 and purchased the farm which he now owns and makes his place of residence. He has reached the venerable age of eighty-seven years, while his wife is eighty-three years. They are one of the worthy and respected old couples of the county and are yet enjoying good health. In 1882 Mr. Fleming took charge of and has since carried on the Chittenden farm, on which he resides, thus relieving his father-in-law of the arduous task of developing his fields.

Politically Mr. Fleming is a stanch democrat, and for one year served as township clerk, but has never sought nor desired office, preferring to give his time and attention to his farm and business interests. His wife and her parents are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church and Mr. and Mrs. Fleming and Mr. and Mrs. Chittenden all enjoy the high esteem of those who know them. He has been a resident of the county for thirty-five years and has seen remarkable changes since the time of his arrival, including the building of the railroads and the development of wild prairie land into productive farms, whereby this section of the state has been made to bloom and blossom as the rose. At the time of his arrival it was open prairie but was rich in its possibilities, which have been improved by a class of progressive agriculturists of which Mr. Fleming is an excellent type.

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#### J. T. CURPHEY.

J. T. Curphey, a prominent and well known resident of Lenox, is numbered among the prosperous and representative farmers and stockmen of Platte township, owning a valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 10. His birth occurred in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, on the 18th of July, 1861, his parents being Robert and Margaret (Cain) Curphey, both of whom were natives of the Isle of Man, where four of their children were born. In 1858 they crossed the Atlantic to the new world, settling in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, where the father reared his family. At the time of the Civil war, he enlisted



in defense of the Union as a member of the Forty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he remained until discharged on account of disability, having been shot through the leg. On recovering from his injury he once more enlisted, joining the One Hundred and Second Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of hostilities between the north and the south, being honorably discharged in August, 1865. His demise occurred in March, 1907, when he had attained the venerable age of ninety-three years, while his wife had been called to her final rest in 1905 at the age of eighty years.

J. T. Curphey spent the first sixteen years of his life in the county of his nativity and there pursued his education. On leaving the Buckeye state he made his way to Iroquois county, Illinois, where he worked by the month as a farm hand for several years. Subsequently he removed to Custer county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded a claim of one hundred and sixty acres, opened up a farm and devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits for ten years. Returning to Iroquois county, Illinois, he was there married on the 26th of May, 1886, to Miss Carrie Barnum, a native of Tazewell county, Illinois. When seven years of age she was brought by her parents to Iroquois county, where she was educated, completing a course at the Grand Prairie Seminary of Onarga. For about two years prior to her marriage she successfully followed the profession of teaching. The young couple began their domestic life on the Nebraska farm—fifty-five miles from the nearest railroad. Mr. Curphey hauled the lumber for his house and barn from Kearney, a distance of one hundred miles. As the years went by he brought the fields under a high state of cultivation and placed a number of substantial improvements on the property, which still remains in his possession. In 1893, he leased the place and again returned to Illinois, purchasing a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Iroquois county, in the operation and improvement of which he was actively engaged until 1900, when he sold out to good advantage. In that year he came to Taylor county, Iowa, and bought his present farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 10, Platte township, to the cultivation and further improvement of which he has since given his time and energies. There were two good barns on the place but he has erected another, has also rebuilt and remodeled the residence and has both a double and single corn crib, a hog house, and so forth. He has partly tilled the land and altogether has a very valuable and productive farm, the fields annually yielding golden harvests in return for the care and labor which is bestowed upon them. Since coming to this county he has made a specialty of the raising and feeding of shorthorn cattle and Percheron horses and is a well known dealer in pure blooded stock, having bred and sold some fine animals. In March, 1909, he purchased a nice residence in Lenox, where he has recently established his home in order that his children may enjoy the advantages of the Lenox schools.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Curphey have been born two sons and three daughters, as follows: Ross E., a farmer by occupation, who is married and makes his home in Lenox; Elva and Robert Harold, both of whom are high school students; Edith, who is likewise attending school at Lenox; and Grace Lucile.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Curphey has given his political allegiance to the men and measures of the republican party. He



served as highway commissioner while a resident of Iroquois county, Illinois, and likewise acted as a member of the board of education there. He has also been a school director in Nebraska and in this county, having served in that capacity altogether for twenty-two years. Both he and his wife attend the Methodist Episcopal church and he contributes to its support.

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### JOHN R. COOPER.

John R. Cooper, a prominent banker of Conway, who also for a number of years was identified with farming and stock-raising in Taylor county, was born in Erie county, New York, on the 28th of March, 1851. He dates his residence, however, in Iowa since 1877 and during the intervening years has won for himself a high place among the prosperous and representative citizens of Taylor county. At an early age he accompanied his parents on their removal west, the family home being established in Lee county, Illinois, where Mr. Cooper was reared and acquired his education in the common schools. His early years were spent upon the home farm where he assisted his father in the cultivation of his fields, and that his early training in farm work was thorough and practical is evidenced in the substantial success which attended his labors in later years. After attaining his majority, he began earning his own livelihood by working by the month as a farm hand. He was thus employed for two or three years and then, desiring that his labors should more directly benefit himself, he rented a farm, which he continued to operate for four years. It was during his residence in Lee county, Illinois, that Mr. Cooper met Miss Fannie Young, a native of Kankakee county, that state, whom he married in November, 1876. The following spring witnessed his arrival in Taylor county, Iowa, where he located on a farm in Grant township. The place consisted of one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land with only a few acres broken. He erected a little house and, with characteristic energy and industry, began the improvement and development of his property. As the years passed he prospered in his undertaking, and from time to time, as his capital increased, he purchased more land, until in time he became the owner of about two thousand acres in five well improved and valuable farms, his realty holdings constituting him one of the extensive landowners of Taylor county. Upon his home farm he built a good barn and substantial outbuildings and also erected a large and beautiful residence, equipped throughout with all modern conveniences, while upon the place are found all of the latest accessories for facilitating the work of the farm. He also engaged extensively in stock-raising, making a specialty of breeding hogs and cattle, and became known throughout the county for his live stock interests, while he acted as clerk at various public sales throughout the community for years.

In 1903, Mr. Cooper directed his interests into other channels, becoming identified with the financial interests of Taylor county through his purchase, in January of that year, of the bank at Sharpsburg, Marshall township, which institution he still owns and operates. In the following year he promoted and



organized the Farmers Bank of Conway and became its president, which position he today occupies. He is engaged in a general banking business and his business sagacity, his ability for good management and above all his upright and honorable methods have gained for him an enviable place among the prosperous and representative capitalists of Taylor county.

As the years have come and gone the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cooper has been blessed with nine children, six sons and three daughters. The sons are: Roy, who operates the home farm; Fred, cashier of the Farmers Bank of Conway; Clyde, a resident farmer of Marshall township; John, employed in the Sharpsburg Bank; Leo, ten years of age; and Paul, a lad of six years. The eldest daughter, Nellie, is now the wife of B. F. Wilson, cashier of the Sharpsburg Bank. Grace M. wedded W. J. Martin, of Chicago, while the youngest daughter, Margaret, is still at home.

Fraternally Mr. Cooper is connected with the Masons, holding membership in Blue Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and is also a Royal Arch Mason and Knight Templar of Creston, Iowa, and is a member of the Mystic Shrine of St. Joseph, Missouri, while he likewise is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has filled all of the chairs and is now a past grand. In politics, Mr. Cooper has given his allegiance to the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and has been called upon to fill various positions by his fellow citizens. He was elected supervisor and served as a member of the county board and was chairman of the board during the erection of the courthouse. He also served as township trustee and as township clerk and in various other official positions. He is prominent in the local party ranks and has been sent as delegate to various state and county conventions. Starting out at the beginning of his business career without any especial favoring circumstances, Mr. Cooper has worked his way upward by diligent labor and unfaltering perseverance until today, by reason of the success which he has attained, he ranks among the prominent and representative citizens of Taylor county, while his personal characteristics are such as have won for him the honor, respect and good will of all with whom he has been associated.

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#### JOSEPH SKINNER.

Joseph Skinner, who is carrying on general farming on section 20, Clayton township, his labors being of a practical and progressive character which have transformed his tract of one hundred and sixty acres into rich and productive fields, was born in La Salle county, Illinois, on the 28th of October, 1853. He is a son of Israel and Polly Ann (Dickson) Skinner, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Pennsylvania. They were married in the Keystone state and in 1840 removed to Illinois, becoming pioneer settlers of La Salle county, where Mr. Skinner opened up a farm and reared his family. Both he and his wife died there after many years residence in the county, during which time they were numbered among the respected and worthy citizens.

Joseph Skinner was afforded good public-school advantages and was reared to farm life, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He remained with his father until after he had attained his majority, operating the home place for several years.

While still living in La Salle county, Mr. Skinner was married there on the 20th of January, 1881, to Miss Augusta Hudgens, who was born and reared in La Salle county. They began their domestic life on the old home farm and, following the death of his parents, Mr. Skinner purchased the place and continued its further development and improvement until 1897, when he disposed of that property and came to Iowa. He had previously visited the state, purchased his present farm and in the following spring removed his family to the new home. Here he has since continued his work, has further improved his place and it is now equipped with all the accessories and conveniences of the model farm of the nineteenth century. It is pleasantly situated within two and a half miles of Bedford so that the advantages of town life are easily accessible while those of rural life are continuously enjoyed. He has made a specialty of the raising of pure Duroc Jersey hogs and is well known as a breeder and dealer in livestock. He has held various public sales, usually two each year, and he sells and ships stock to Illinois, Kansas, Arkansas and Missouri. He was formerly engaged in the dairy business and was one of the promoters of the Creamery Company, operating in Bedford.

Mr. and Mrs. Skinner have become parents of three sons: J. L., who is now a bookkeeper in the National Bank at Grand Rapids, Michigan; Herbert, who is operating the home farm and was married in Bedford January 17, 1909, to Miss Grace Rankin, who was born in Kansas but was reared in Iowa; and Wilber, who is a young man assisting in the operation of the home farm. The parents are members of the Bedford Methodist Episcopal church and their many good qualities of heart and mind are widely recognized. Politically he is a republican and officially identified with the schools of La Salle county but, since coming to Iowa, has taken no part in political affairs. He is, however, a public-spirited citizen, interested in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community and cooperating in many movements for the general good. He has been diligent and persistent in his business affairs and has won that success which is the merited and logical reward of earnest and well directed labor.

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#### ALEXANDER C. BRICE.

Alexander C. Brice is numbered among the veterans of the Civil war and when he enlisted, was the youngest member of his regiment. Throughout his entire life he has been equally loyal and patriotic in his devotion to the general good and in civil office as well as in military life has demonstrated his devotion to his country. In his local connections he is well known as the senior partner of the Brice Company of Bedford, owning and conducting one of the finest grocery stores in southwestern Iowa. He has long been a resident of this part of the state and from pioneer times down to the present, has enjoyed an excellent



reputation as a business man and citizen, being honored and respected by all who know him. He was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, about six miles from Dayton, July 1, 1844. His paternal grandfather, Alexander Cooper Brice, was a native of Virginia and became a minister of the Presbyterian church. He died in the Old Dominion at an advanced age after having devoted many years to redemptive work. His family numbered four sons and five daughters, including Washington Brice, who was also a native of Virginia. In early life, however, he became a resident of Montgomery county, Ohio, where he was reared. There he turned his attention in a business way to the raising of tobacco and in 1850 he removed westward to Lee county, Iowa, where his death resulted from a runaway accident in 1861, when he was forty-five years of age. In early manhood he had wedded Priscilla Martha Snodgrass, a native of Pennsylvania, who had also gone to Montgomery county, Ohio, at an early day. Her father was a native of the Keystone state, was of Holland Dutch descent and devoted his life to farming. He removed to Iowa in the fall of 1852, settling at West Point, Lee county, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits until his death when he was sixty-eight years of age. His widow long survived him, reaching the remarkable old age of ninety-two years. They had a large family, numbering eight daughters and four or five sons. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Washington Brice was blessed with four children: Alexander C., of this review; Samuel S., a resident of Taylor county, Iowa; Belle, the wife of J. R. Sater, residing near Lenox, Iowa; and Hattie, the wife of E. L. Osborn, of Montrose, Colorado. The mother survived her husband for a long period and departed this life in 1894, at the age of seventy-nine. Both were consistent members of the Presbyterian church.

Alexander C. Brice lived in Montgomery county, Ohio, until six years of age and then came to Iowa with his parents, who settled in Lee county, where he remained until 1861. Constrained by a spirit of patriotism, he then offered his services to the government, enlisting as a member of Company C, First Iowa Cavalry, when not quite seventeen years of age. He served for five years, lacking one month and a half. He joined the army as a private and was mustered out as a sergeant. He was the youngest member of the regiment at the time of his enlistment and for two years after he went to the front, his command was engaged in fighting bushwhackers in Missouri and Arkansas. Later he participated in the battle of Prairie Grove, Bayou Meter, Little Rock and in many other important engagements in the west. During one campaign he was for thirty-nine days under fire.

After the war Mr. Brice returned to Iowa and a year later went to Dallas county, Iowa, where he was engaged in the grocery and woolen goods business, his store being located in the county seat. After two and a half years he removed to Richmond, Missouri, where he engaged in building railroad bridges under contract and there lived for six years. He next came to Taylor county, Iowa, and was in the fruit business at Lenox. In 1890, he was elected county treasurer and served in that position for two years, after which he was appointed consul to Cuba by President Cleveland and continued in official service there until the outbreak of the war on that island. He then returned home to Bedford, Iowa, where he has since lived and, establishing a grocery store, he has since been its proprietor, while associated with him in its conduct are his sons, Elmer T. and



G. B., under the firm name of the Brice Company. They have one of the finest grocery stores in southwestern Iowa, carrying a large and well selected line of staple and fancy groceries, while their annual sales reach a large figure.,

In 1866, Mr. Brice was married to Miss Elizabeth Berry, of Richmond, Missouri, and unto them were born three children: Alice J., the wife of Rufus Woodring, by whom she had four children, Elizabeth, Theressa, Rufus and Catherine, who is deceased; Kate H., who is the wife of George Bubb and lives in Parsons, Kansas, with their three children, Ruth, Bernice and Elsie May; and Elmer T. The wife and mother died in 1876, and Mr. Brice afterward wedded Miss Phebe Arabel Kenyon, a daughter of George W. and Ruth Elizabeth (Green) Kenyon. The four children of that marriage are: George Basil; Alexander C.; Esperanza; and Calvin S., who is deceased. Mrs. Phebe Brice was called to her final rest in 1904. She was a devoted member of the Presbyterian church, to which Mr. Brice also belongs and he is a member of Taylor Lodge, No. 156, A. F. & A. M. Politically he is an earnest democrat but has never been very active as an office seeker. He has preferred to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs and at one time he owned nine or ten buildings in Bedford, where he still has a fine home property, together with eighty acres of farm land. A lover of the beautiful and especially as manifest in flower creations, he has a garden of over fifteen hundred varieties of flowering plants.

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#### ANDREW HAMILTON.

Andrew Hamilton, a highly respected farmer whose undaunted enterprise, determination and diligence have carried him into important relations in the agricultural interests of the county, is now living on section 12, Ross township. He has eighty acres of land in his home place, another tract of eighty acres and in addition over three hundred acres in three well improved farms. His work has always been carried on in a practical manner yet in accordance with the most progressive spirit of agricultural life and what he undertakes he accomplishes, so that his resolution has always been an important and essential element in his prosperity. He has lived in Iowa since 1870 and in Taylor county since 1874, so that for thirty-six years he has been a witness of the growth and progress of this portion of the state.

Mr. Hamilton is a native of Scotland, his birth having occurred in Lanarkshire, October 22, 1850. There he remained to the age of twenty years. He is a brother of J. M. Hamilton who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume, and the two brothers, together with the other members of the family, spent their youthful days at the old home in the land of hills and heather. Andrew Hamilton came to the new world in 1870 in company with a sister and at once made his way from the Atlantic seaboard to Iowa, settling first in Page county, where he joined his grandparents, who had located there four years previous. He then purchased eighty acres where he now resides, broke the sod and opened up the farm. There were no buildings nor improvements upon it at that time but with characteristic energy he began its development and later erected a good residence,



also two barns and the sheds necessary for further shelter of grain and stock. There was not a stick of timber upon the place when it came into his possession, but there is now a fine grove of his own planting and also a good orchard, including the various kinds of fruit trees that are adapted to soil and climate. Year by year he worked on steadily and persistently and as he gathered his crops and placed them on the market his financial resources increased, enabling him to make further investment in land. He now has nearly three hundred acres which he cultivates, and he gave to his son a farm of eighty acres. The soil is rich and productive and he annually harvests good crops and also feeds and fattens cattle and hogs. His live-stock interests are an important source of revenue, in fact his animal sales of stock furnish him with a good income.

Mr. Hamilton has been married twice. In Taylor county in 1875 he wedded Miss Rena Moffatt, who was born in Iowa. They traveled life's journey happily together for about twenty-three years, but were separated by the death of the wife on the 22d of September, 1898. They became the parents of three children, of whom two are now living: Albert, a farmer of this township; and Maud, who married I. B. Coon and they had one child, who died in infancy. A daughter of the first marriage, Treva, died at the age of twenty-one years. In 1899 Mr. Hamilton was again married, his second union being with Miss Ida Poulton, a native of Iowa.

Politically, Mr. Hamilton is independent to the extent that he does not consider himself bound by party ties. However, he attempts to secure good men in office and has himself filled the position of township clerk. He has also been officially connected with the schools for several years and was overseer for more than twenty years. He belongs to the church of Christ and its teachings constitute the guiding force in his life. He has been a resident of Iowa for about forty years and the record which he has made throughout that entire period is such as to entitle him to the respect and confidence of his fellowmen. He is one of the prosperous farmers, stock-raisers and business men of Ross township and a man of sterling character and worth, widely known in Bedford and throughout this part of the state.

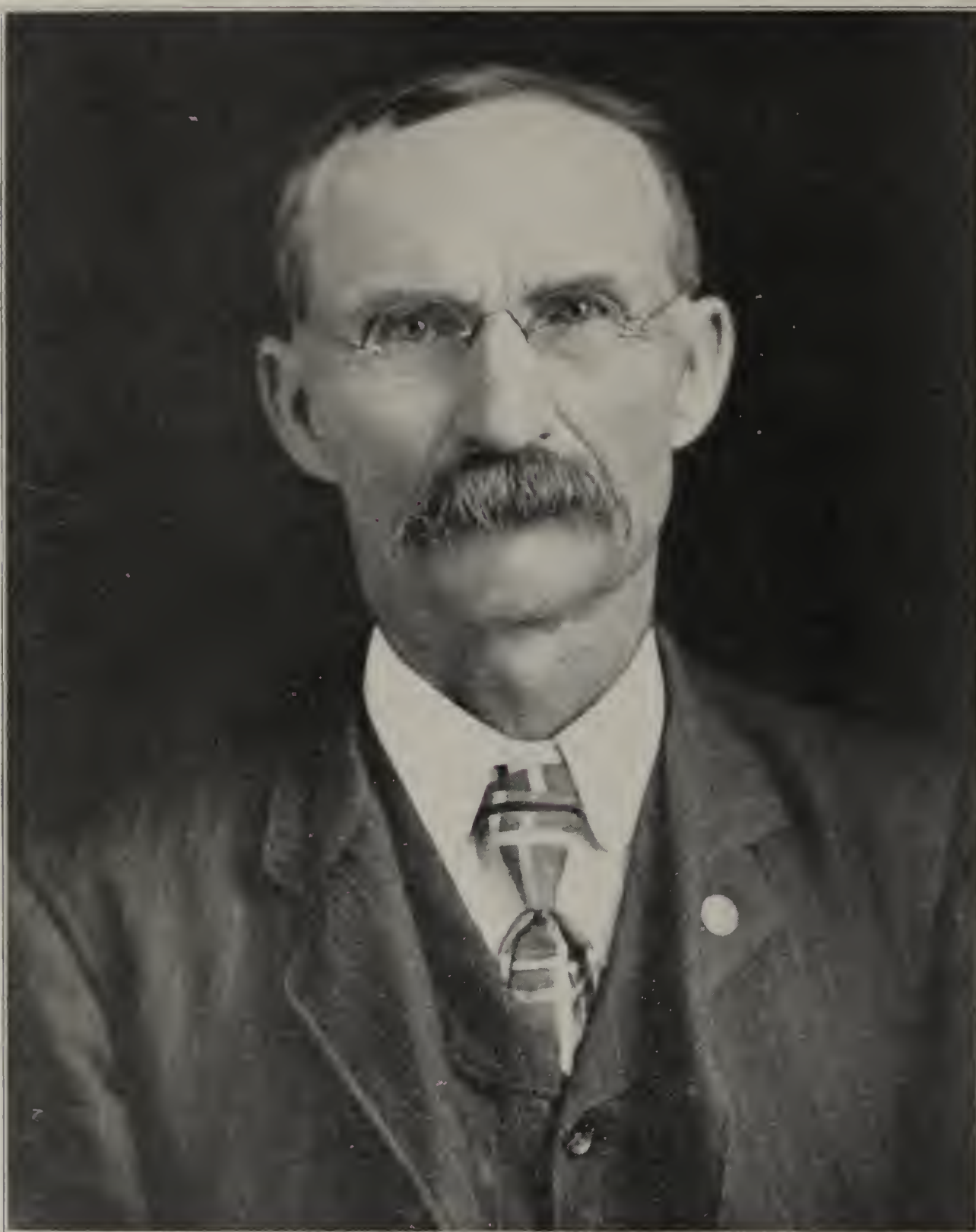
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#### C. C. MOHLER.

Among the pioneer settlers of Taylor county who are engaged in agricultural pursuits is C. C. Mohler, who dates his residence in this county from 1856. Born in Morgan county, Ohio, November 5, 1840, he is a son of Leonard and Lucinda (Pletcher) Mohler, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively. The father, who was reared and educated in his native state, was married in Ohio and engaged in farming in Morgan and Washington counties, that state, for some years. He later engaged in the manufacture of furniture in Zanesville, Ohio, being thus employed for about ten years. In 1855 he came to Iowa and entered land in Clayton township, Taylor county, to which he removed in the following year. His farm consisted of three hundred and sixty acres, which he at once put under cultivation. As an agriculturist he be-







C. C. MOHLER



MRS. C. C. MOHLER





came very successful and as he prospered he added to his property until at the time of his death he was the owner of several hundred acres. He and his wife both passed away on their farm, near Bedford.

C. C. Mohler was a youth of fifteen years when he arrived in Iowa. He had enjoyed good educational advantages, remaining a student in the common schools of his native state until twelve years of age. He then clerked in a store in Zanesville for some time, thus gaining good practical business training. After coming to Iowa he assisted his father in the cultivation of his fields and remained at home until twenty-one years of age, when he engaged in farming on his own account. In 1863, however, he responded to his country's call for aid and enlisted as a member of Company D, Forty-sixth Iowa Infantry, for one hundred days' service. He took part in much skirmishing and did guard duty in Tennessee and Mississippi. He remained with his regiment until 1864, serving out his full term of enlistment, and was then honorably discharged with the rank of third corporal.

After leaving the army Mr. Mohler returned home and was associated with his father on the farm for some time. He was then married and located in Jackson township, where he rented a farm for one year. Later he purchased the tract of land upon which he now resides and directed his energies to the further development, cultivation and improvement of his farm, consisting of one hundred and thirty-five acres of valuable land. When the property came into his possession the only abode upon it was a small log house, in which he lived for about two years and then erected a more commodious dwelling near the road. This has since been replaced by a large and attractive country home, equipped with all modern conveniences, and beautifully and tastefully furnished. He has erected two good barns upon the place and has planted a fine orchard, while the entire farm is surrounded by good fences that are kept in excellent repair. The place today indicates in its well-kept appearance the careful supervision and practical methods of its owner, whose labors have transformed it from a comparatively unimproved tract of land into a splendidly developed farm, which ranks among the finest in the township. As the years have come and gone he has added to his realty holdings until his farm, which is located on section 20, Clayton township, includes about six hundred acres. At one time he owned eight hundred acres but has given some of his property to his children. He was also the owner of four hundred acres in New Mexico, which he has since sold. He deals quite extensively in stock, which branch of his business returns to him a most gratifying revenue. He possesses the only deer park in the county, covering five acres. It contains only four deer at present but he has had on hand in former years seventeen head at one time. Aside from the high place which he has won for himself in the agricultural circles of Taylor county, Mr. Mohler is also well known among the business men of Bedford as one of the promoters of the Bedford National Bank and has remained a stockholder and director therein since its inception.

On the 14th of September, 1885, Mr. Mohler laid the foundation for a pleasant home life in his marriage to Miss Martha Ellen John, a sister of Alexander John, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. In their family are three children, namely: Etta May, the wife of D. M. Gibson, of Clarke county,



Iowa; Frank John, who is married and operates the north part of his father's farm; and Gertrude Alice, residing at home. They also lost three children, namely: Hattie J., who married Leroy Dowis, of Sheridan, Missouri, where she passed away; Harris H., who passed away when twenty-seven years of age, his death occurring in Kansas City while on his way home from New Mexico; and a daughter who died in infancy.

Mr. Mohler's religious faith is indicated in his membership in the Presbyterian church, of which he is serving as one of the deacons. Politically he is a staunch democrat, voting for Stephen A. Douglas in 1860. In 1864, however, he cast his ballot for Lincoln for president. He has been elected to several public offices, at various times, filling the position of township trustee, assessor and supervisor, and he has also been sent as delegate to various state and county conventions. In all matters of citizenship he is as loyal to his country as when he fought upon southern battlefields. In the business world he started at the bottom of the ladder, without any especially favoring advantages to aid him at the outset, and he worked his way upward until, through his unfaltering industry and persistent labor, he has reached an enviable place among the prominent and successful agriculturists of the county, the high degree of prosperity which he now enjoys coming to him solely through his own efforts.

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#### THOMAS J. DAVIS.

Energy, industry and perseverance have characterized the life record of Thomas J. Davis, who is now practicing veterinary surgery in Gravity, where he has resided from the time of the establishment of the town. Born in Mansfield, Ohio, on the 19th of December, 1844, he is a son of Abednego and Almena (Barns) Davis, the former a son of Abednego Davis, Sr., and the latter a daughter of Thomas Barns, who was a prominent farmer of French origin. The father of our subject was born in Ohio in 1822 and came to Iowa in 1854, settling upon a tract of land which at that time was practically raw prairie. He broke the sod and brought his fields under a state of cultivation, devoting considerable time to general farming. He was an extensive sportsman, hunting wolves and wild cats, while for about thirty years he was a well-known auctioneer throughout the county, and he also followed the occupation of tombstone cutter and engraver. Aside from the subject of this review he had the following children: John, Francis, Abednego and Hannah.

Thomas J. Davis spent the days of his boyhood under the parental roof and at the usual age enrolled as a pupil in the school at Garden Grove, Decatur county, Iowa, where he remained until 1862. After completing his education he returned home and remained upon the old homestead until the year 1865. In the meantime he assisted his father in the cultivation of the fields and early learned lessons of value concerning the best methods of plowing, planting and harvesting. In the year mentioned he took up the study of veterinary surgery under the direction of V. S. Nevin, this course covering a period of two years, and in 1867 he returned to the farm and assisted his father until

1873. He then removed to Gravity, which town was founded in 1881 and there in partnership with Dr. McCullom, he established a drug business, which they conducted for about eight years. This was the pioneer enterprise of the town, theirs being the first store of any kind to be opened in Gravity. Later, however, he severed his relation with Dr. McCullom and took up the practice of his profession and has since been engaged as a veterinary surgeon. He has become very well known in the community because of his skill and ability in his chosen work and also on account of his honorable business methods, and he now enjoys an extensive and constantly increasing patronage, which is a source of most gratifying revenue to him. He is also manager of the Mutual Telephone company, and he and his wife own the old Harlan farm consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, while he is ranked among the leading and influential business men of the town.

It was in April, 1866, that Mr. Davis was united in marriage in Holt township to Miss Mary Harlan, a daughter of George and Perry (Edgington) and a sister of Aaron Harlan, who passed away in 1909. Her parents were farming people who settled in Taylor county in 1855. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Davis was blessed by the birth of one daughter, Ida, who is the wife of Dr. Martin, of Pella, Iowa.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Davis has given his political allegiance to the Democracy and has been very active in the affairs of that organization. He has been a delegate to the state conventions and on that ticket held the position of postmaster for four years. Public-spirited in an eminent degree, he is not only interested in the material welfare of the community but has been deeply interested in the moral development as well, and has been one of the most prominent and liberal contributors in the building of practically every church in the town. His life has ever been in keeping with the principles that govern honorable and upright manhood and he occupies today a foremost place among the influential and valued citizens of Gravity.

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#### CHARLES E. BROWN.

That Taylor county is an attractive place of residence, that her advantages are equal to those offered in other sections of the country and that her opportunities are yet many are points which are all indicated in the fact that many of her native sons yet remain within her borders, finding here good business conditions which, carefully utilized, lead to success. Charles E. Brown is numbered among the native sons of the county and is now carefully directing his labors in the lines of agricultural activity, having a valuable farm of two hundred acres which lies on sections 1 and 12, Jackson township. It was upon this farm that he first opened his eyes to the light of day on the 13th of June, 1873.

His father, Andrew Brown, was a native of Indiana and was a son of Elias Brown, who removed to Iowa with his family in the fall of 1854, taking up his abode on the land which is now the home of our subject. Andrew Brown was here reared amid the wild scenes and environments of pioneer life for at



that time Taylor county was a frontier district in which the work of progress and improvement had been scarcely begun. He continued to assist in the work of the home farm until after the outbreak of the Civil war, when he joined the Ninth Iowa Cavalry and continued at the front through the period of hostilities. At length he inherited the old home farm and devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits. He was married in this county to Miss Margaret Kemery, who was born in Lee county, Iowa. Beginning his domestic life on the old homestead he labored with untiring and indefatigable perseverance to develop the property according to the ideas of modern, progressive agriculture, carefully tilling his fields until they brought forth rich harvests, and also added substantial buildings to the place. Upon this farm he reared his family and made it his home until called to his final rest about 1899. His wife survives him, still residing upon the old homestead. Their family numbered two sons, the elder being George W., who is married and is a resident farmer of Taylor county.

Charles E. Brown, the younger son, was reared in the usual manner of farm lads, aiding more and more largely in the work of the fields as his years and strength increased. He also embraced the opportunities offered by the public schools for the acquirement of an education and as he neared manhood concentrated his energies upon the work of the farm with his father until the latter's death. He inherited a part of the farm and now operates the entire place, which comprises two hundred acres of rich and productive land, situated on section 1 and 12, Jackson township. With the farm he raises sheep, hogs and cattle, keeping on hand high grades of stock and thus doing much to improve the kind of stock raised in the county and to maintain high prices. In business matters his judgment is sound and reliable and it needs no gift of prophecy to foretell for him continued success in the future.

Mr. Brown was married in Jackson township, September 30, 1897, to Miss Hattie Craig, who was born in Taylor county and is a daughter of Orten Craig, now living in Clarinda, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have six children: Andy L., Roxie, Bernice, Burrel, Gale and a baby boy, who are all yet at home. They also lost a son, Charles E., who died in infancy.

The parents are both highly esteemed in the community, and the hospitality of their own home is greatly enjoyed by their many friends. Mr. Brown is a staunch republican in politics, supporting the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He has always lived in this county, where he is recognized as a man of good business ability and as a successful and progressive farmer.

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#### ALFRED BORDNER.

One by one the veterans of the Civil war are answering to their last roll call and as the years go by the country is coming more and more to realize the debt of gratitude which she owes to those who were the preservers of the Union through the dark period of the Civil war. Mr. Bordner is numbered among the men who wore the blue uniform and following the stars and stripes on



southern battlefields and he has always been loyal in his citizenship, as staunchly advocating the country's interests in days of peace as in days of war. He is now classed with the leading and representative farmers and stock-raisers of Polk township, living on section 23, where he owns and cultivates a good farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He has lived in Taylor county since 1881 and is numbered among the native sons of the Mississippi valley, his birth having occurred in Fulton county, Illinois, on the 20th of November, 1844.

His father, Jonathan Bordner, was a native of Pennsylvania and when a lad of twelve years went to Ohio with his father, Peter Bordner, who settled in Licking county, where his son, Jonathan, was reared and educated. In early manhood he removed westward to Fulton county, Illinois, where he opened up a new farm which, at the time of his purchase, was heavily timbered land. He had about two hundred and eighty acres and the task of clearing away the forest and developing the fields was no sinecure. With characteristic energy, however, he pursued his work and upon the excellent farm which resulted from his labors he reared his family and spent his last years. He was married in Illinois to Miss Lucinda Bearce, a native of Fulton county, Illinois, who survived her husband for about twenty years. Their family numbered four sons and seven daughters who reached adult age and the eldest son Harvey, who was a soldier of the One Hundred and Third Illinois Infantry, was killed at the battle of Missionary Ridge. The others are still living.

Alfred Bordner spent his youthful days on the old home farm in Illinois and to some extent attended the common schools but is largely self-educated, having learned many valuable lessons in the school of experience. He was only about twenty years of age when he responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting in 1864 in the one hundred days' service as a member of Company D, One Hundred and Thirty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry. The regiment went south to Kentucky, where he participated in numerous skirmishes with the guerrillas and buskwhackers. He served out the time of his enlistment and was then honorably discharged at Chicago.

Mr. Bordner returned to the old home farm whereon he remained until the time of his marriage. On the 16th of October, 1866, he wedded Miss Harriet G. Scrivner, a daughter of John Scrivner, one of the early settlers of Polk township, Taylor county, locating here about 1870. Mrs. Bordner was born in Ohio and was reared in Fulton county, Illinois. Following his marriage Mr. Bordner carried on general farming in Fulton county for several years but in 1881 came to Iowa, where he joined his wife's father and in 1882 he made purchase of eighty acres of the land on which he now resides. He has since invested in forty acres so that he now has a good farm of one hundred and twenty acres. The neat and well built two-story residence upon the place stands as a monument to his enterprise as do the two good barns and the various outbuildings which he has erected, making this a model property of Polk township. There is also an orchard on the place of his own planting and many rods of fence have been built by him dividing the farm into fields of convenient size. He annually harvests abundant crops for the land is rich and productive and he keeps it in good condition through rotation. He likewise raises and feeds high grade stock, making a specialty of hogs and horses. The various branches of his



business are carefully managed and his success is the legitimate and logical outcome of his earnest labor.

Mr. and Mrs. Bordner are now the parents of nine living children: Nellie, the wife of James Williams, now of Coldwater, Kansas; Emsy, the wife of M. J. Sheley, a resident farmer of Polk township; Anna, the wife of E. E. Orme, who also follows farming in Polk township; Lucy, the wife of J. H. Quigley, of Fulton county, Illinois; Bertha, the wife of L. J. Davidson, of Ross township; Mary, the wife of S. B. Webb, of Bedford; John, who assists in carrying on the home farm and is also cultivating other land; Harry, who is married and is a farmer of Ross township; and Frank, who also follows farming in Ross township. They also lost one son, Harvey, who died at the age of two years. Mr. and Mrs. Bordner are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the faith of which they were reared and Mr. Bordner belongs to the Grand Army Post at Hopkins, thus maintaining pleasant relations with his old army comrades among whom he loyally served. He has been a stalwart republican since age conferred upon him the right of franchise but the honors and emoluments of office have had no attraction for him as he regards his business affairs as more important and gives to them his undivided time and attention.

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#### J. A. LOMAX.

J. A. Lomax is known as a citizen whose cooperation can always be counted upon, where public interests are involved. His influence is always on the side of progress and advancement and he has thus become recognized as one of the valuable representatives of the community in which he lives. His home is on section 7, Jefferson township, and his business activity is directed in the line of general farming and stock-raising. He was born in Knox county, Illinois, December 18, 1858, and was reared to manhood upon a farm near Abingdon, in the same county. His educational privileges were those offered by the public-school system and he was early trained to the work of the fields, rendering to his father efficient aid in the tasks of plowing, planting and harvesting. When he had reached man's estate he was married in that locality on the 4th of July, 1881, to Miss Rilla Hawkins, also a native of Illinois.

Following his marriage Mr. Lomax engaged in farming in Knox county, Illinois, for about four years and during that period two children were added to the family. He then made his way west of the Mississippi, thinking to find in the less thickly settled country better advantages for the rapid attainment of success. Accordingly, in 1886, he made his way to Kansas and locating in Thomas county, which was then largely unimproved, he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he at once began to cultivate and develop. The breaking plow and the harrow were soon at work and in due course of time the fields were made productive and brought forth good crops but the location was not all that he desired and after nine years spent in Kansas he journeyed eastward in 1895 to Worth county, Missouri, settling near Sheridan. There he cultivated a rented farm until 1901, when he came across the border into Iowa and purchased

and located upon the farm upon which he now resides. It comprises one hundred and thirty acres of well improved and valuable land on section 7, Jefferson township, and when he took possession thereof he at once began its further development. He has since remodeled the dwelling and the barn and has fenced the place, putting in seven hundred posts the first year. He has also set out a young orchard and now has a fine variety of apples, peaches, cherries and plums. He likewise raises considerable small fruit and has displayed much ability along horticultural lines. The fields annually produce rich harvests and he likewise raises, feeds and ships stock, having upon his place a high grade of shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. He keeps a pure-blooded Poland China male for breeding purposes and also a full-blooded shorthorn bull. His stock-raising interests have brought him desirable success and he has upon his place some very fine specimens of both cattle and hogs.

Mr. and Mrs. Lomax have become parents of five children: Earl; Lloyd; Ada, the wife of Hiram Pope, a farmer of Gay township, Taylor county; Lula, the wife of John Fluke, of Van Wert, Decatur county, Iowa; and Edith, at home. They also lost an infant daughter Gertie, who was the second born.

Mr. Lomax is well known in fraternal circles. He joined the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Sheridan, Missouri, served through the chairs at that place and is a past grand. His membership is now in Blockton lodge. He also became a member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity while in Kansas but is not affiliated with the organization at the present time. His political views are in accordance with the principles of democracy, where state and national questions are involved, but locally he casts an independent ballot. He has been identified with educational interests in Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa, served as school treasurer in the first named state and is now president of the school board. He believes in the employment of competent teachers that the interests of the young people may be furthered along educational lines, realizing how valuable is mental discipline as a preparation for life's responsible duties. Mrs. Lomax belongs to the Christian church and both are people of genuine personal worth widely and favorably known in this part of the state.

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### JOHN I. LARISON.

John I. Larison is living on section 26, Clayton township, and he and his brother, G. W. Larison, are numbered among the energetic, wide-awake and progressive farmers of Taylor county, where they own four hundred acres of rich and productive land. The farm has been transformed into a valuable property, owing to the care and labor which they have bestowed upon it. The brothers are both natives of Iowa, having been born in Taylor county near Bedford. The birth of G. W. Larison occurred December 29, 1864, while J. I. Larison was born June 10, 1866. They were sons of Enoch B. Larison, a native of Shelby county, Indiana, where he was reared and educated. In that county he married Catherine Smith, also a native of Shelby county, and following their marriage he began farming there but in 1854 removed to Taylor



county, Iowa. He then purchased land in Bedford township, after which he opened up a new farm and reared his family thereon. Carefully and persistently he continued the arduous task of developing new land until the wild prairie was transformed into productive fields, the wild flowers being replaced by the rich, golden harvests. Upon his farm Enoch Larison passed away in 1882, while his wife, surviving him for some years, died in 1900. In their family were six sons and a daughter, all of whom were reared in Bedford township. The two older sons were born in Indiana but the others are all natives of Taylor county. William W., the oldest member of the family, is a resident of Rich Valley in Alberta, Canada. Robert is living at Stanberry, Missouri, David J. is in Sheridan, Wyoming, where he is filling the office of county assessor. Maggie M. died in 1904, aged thirty-six years.

J. I. and G. W. Larison are representative farmers of Taylor county. John I. Larison was educated in the Bedford schools and in early manhood was trained in the work of the farm and assisted his father until the latter's death, after which he carried on the home place. About 1889 he was joined in a partnership by his brother, G. W. Larison, and together they rented and carried on the home place, and also rented and cultivated other land. In the fall of 1896 they purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land and located where they now reside, on section 26, Clayton township. Their continuous and well directed labor is evidenced in the excellent appearance of their place, for the fields are carefully cultivated and everything about the farm is neat and thrifty. They have built a large feed shed, ninety-six by eighteen feet, and they have a barn, seventy-two by seventy-two feet. They also have a sheep barn and a hog house and in 1909 built a silo, twenty by thirty feet with five feet in the ground, having a capacity of over two hundred tons ensilage. The most modern improvements are found upon their place, including two gasoline engines, one of eight horse power for grinding feed, and the other of two horse power to operate the water-works. The churning and the laundry work are also furnished with power from these engines and machinery for shearing sheep is operated in the same way, so that the manual work is greatly lessened. There is a fine system of water-works upon the place and every lot or field on the farm is enclosed with woven wire fence. The brothers are extensively engaged in raising stock, having three hundred head of hogs upon their place, and feed and fatten about a thousand head of sheep annually. Last year they raised five hundred head of Poland China hogs, mostly pure blood. They also keep about one hundred and twenty-five head of cattle and thirty-eight head of horses and are numbered among the most extensive, successful and prosperous stock raisers, feeders and shippers of the county. In addition to cultivating their own land the brothers lease and operate three hundred and twenty acres not far from their home farm and give personal supervision to all of the work.

John I. Larison was married near Bedford, January 3, 1894, to Miss Rose Ernest, who was born in Kansas and was reared in Iowa. They have no children of their own but are rearing and educating an orphan boy and girl.

Politically the brothers are republicans, stalwart in support of the party and doing all in their power to promote its growth and extend its influence. John I. Larison is now serving as township clerk but they have always preferred to de-



vote their time and energies to the interests of their business. They are members of the East Mission Baptist church and also of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Bedford, while John I. Larison and his wife are both connected with the Rebekah degree. The brothers also hold membership with the Modern Woodmen of America. They are both active, enterprising and progressive farmers and stock raisers, recognized as good and reliable business men, and their keen discernment and energy have constituted the foundation upon which they have builded their success.

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### MARTIN V. PACE.

Martin V. Pace, a successful farmer and stock-raiser of Mason township, is the owner of a rich and productive tract of land of eighty acres, which has been in his possession since 1884. He was born in Dubois, Indiana, on the 8th of October, 1855, a son of Richard Foster and Nancy Jane (Wininger) Pace. The family is an old one in this country, having been represented in the United States for several centuries. Richard F. Pace, the father of our subject, is a native of Virginia and came to Taylor county, Iowa, in the year 1857, as one of its pioneer settlers. He has now attained the venerable age of eighty-eight years and is well known and highly esteemed throughout the community as a most worthy and respected citizen. His brothers, William, Charles Wesley, Elisha Center, Lewis Clark and Edward Melbourn, all participated in the Civil war with the exception of Elisha Center. Edward Melbourn was killed while in the service, thus laying down his life on the altar of his country.

Martin V. Pace, who was but two years of age when brought by his parents to this county, obtained his education in the public schools of Mason township. When not busy with his text-books he assisted in the work of the old home farm, and after leaving school at the age of nineteen years, he gave his father the benefit of his services as a farm hand until he had attained his majority. He then started out as an agriculturist on his own account by renting a tract of land of eighty acres and, by dint of untiring industry and good management, at length accumulated sufficient capital with which to purchase the property. It has since remained in his possession and he has placed many substantial improvements thereon, so that the place is now lacking in none of the equipments and accessories of a model farm of the twentieth century. He built a new barn and fences, and the general air of neatness and thrift which pervades the place indicates the supervision of a practical and progressive owner. In addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate, he also gives much of his time to the raising of stock and this branch of his business is proving a profitable source of revenue to him.

On the 13th of September, 1881, in Page county, Mr. Pace was united in marriage to Miss Clara Eliza Holton, a daughter of D. B. and Margaret Holton. Her father is a prominent hardware merchant of Bradleyville, Iowa. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Pace have been born three daughters, namely: Nellie May, now



the wife of Clarence E. Mason, who follows farming and makes his home with his father; Shirley Clara; and Vera Maud, who died at the age of two years.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Pace has cast his ballot in support of the men and measures of the republican party. He is a valued member of the Baptist church at New Market, in which he served as deacon for some years. He has spent practically his entire life in this county and the friends of his boyhood have remained the friends of his manhood—a fact which indicates that his life has been at all times upright and honorable.

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### J. H. POOR.

Persistent, earnest labor has constituted the foundation upon which J. H. Poor has builded his success, making him one of the substantial farmers of Gay township. He now resides on section 25, and is busily employed with the care of a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He has resided there for thirty-five years, having in 1874, come to Taylor county from Ringgold county, Iowa, where he located in 1870. He has lived in the middle west although the place of his birth was east of the Mississippi. He first opened his eyes to the light of day on the 27th of March, 1843, in Jackson county, Indiana. His father, Samuel Poor, was also a native of that state and having arrived at years of maturity was married there to Julia Ann Winegar, a native of Tennessee. Mr. Poor followed farming in the Hoosier state and there reared his family. At the time of the Civil war he espoused the cause of the Union and served at the front until honorably discharged on account of disability. He passed away in 1895, and is still survived by his widow who resides with a daughter, Mrs. Sutton, in Missouri.

The boyhood days of J. H. Poor were quietly passed upon the home farm in Jackson county, Indiana. Through the period of his boyhood and youth he worked in the fields through the summer months and in the winter seasons acquired his education. He was married in 1862 when twenty years of age to Miss Harriet McCain, who was a native of Ohio, but was reared in Indiana. After their marriage the young couple began their domestic life upon a tract of rented land which Mr. Poor cultivated until 1864. In February of that year, constrained by a spirit of patriotism, he offered his services to the government, enlisting as a member of Company H, One Hundred and Twentieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. With that command he went south, the regiment joining the Army of the Cumberland. He was first under fire at Buzzard's Roost, a hotly contested battle in which Mr. Poor had the first finger of his right hand shot away, thus becoming permanently disabled. He was in the hospital for a time but later joined his regiment and subsequently participated in the battles of Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain and the Atlanta campaign. He was also present at the battle of Jonesboro and after the capture of Atlanta was with his regiment when it was sent back to Nashville, participating in the last engagement there. Later he was sent to Washington, D. C., and subsequently to Morehead City. He afterward joined General Sherman at Raleigh, where he was held on guard duty until



MR. AND MRS. J. H. POOR





1866, when he was mustered out and sent home, receiving his honorable discharge at Indianapolis on the 9th of January of that year.

When the war was over and the country no longer needed his military aid Mr. Poor returned home and later purchased a tract of land in Jackson county Indiana, where he carried on general farming until 1870. In that year he came to Iowa, settling first in Ringgold county, where he purchased forty acres of land which he broke and fenced. He there carried on farming for four years when he sold the property and bought forty acres of his present farm. Only a small portion of this had been broken while there was upon the place a small box house which he and his family occupied for four or five years or until he was able to erect a more commodious and modern residence. Desirous of becoming the owner of a more extensive farm he added to his original tract from time to time as his financial resources increased and broke the sod and tilled the soil until his place was converted into rich and productive fields. He also built a substantial dwelling and likewise a good barn and hog shed. He had also set out fruit trees, planted a grove and made the place what it is today, a well improved property. He raises high grade stock, including hogs, cattle and horses and his fields annually bring forth rich harvests.

Mr. and Mrs. Poor have become the parents of nine children: J. C., a young man at home, who assists in carrying on the farm; Charles, a resident farmer of Gay township; Benjamin B., of Blockton, who was a soldier of the Philippine war and had his left thumb shot away; John, who is doing for himself; James and Jesse, at home; Charlotta, the wife of Delta Ketch, of Blockton; Jennie, the wife of William Hensley, a farmer of Gay township; and Emma, who died in September, 1908, at the age of twenty-four years.

In his political views Mr. Poor has been a republican since casting his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. With one exception he has supported every presidential nominee of the party since that time. He belongs to the United Brethren church and to the Grand Army Post and is highly esteemed in both organizations. For nearly forty years he has lived in this part of the country and since 1874 has been actively concerned in the development and progress of Taylor county, especially along the lines of agricultural development.

He has worked earnestly and persistently to attain the success which is now his and which makes him one of the representative agriculturists of the community.

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#### RICHARD T. BURRELL.

Richard T. Burrell, who is engaged in the practice of law at Bedford as a member of the firm of McConn & Burrell, was born in Holt township, Taylor county, Iowa, April 6, 1867. The paternal grandparents were Fred W. and Lucinda (Miller) Burrell, the former a native of Pennsylvania. He followed farming as a life work and passed away in middle life in Ohio, of which state he had become an early settler. The maternal grandfather, Elihu Baker, whose birth occurred in Georgia, became an early settler of Tennessee. The year



1856 witnessed his arrival in Holt township, Taylor county, Iowa, where he successfully carried on agricultural pursuits until a year prior to his death, when he removed to Worth county, Missouri. His demise occurred in 1880, when he had attained the age of sixty-two years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Morning Ann Reed, passed away in 1890, when seventy-six years of age. They reared a large family of children. George W. Burrell, the father of our subject, was born in Ohio and was reared on a farm, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. His parents died when he was comparatively young and in early manhood he became a teamster in the iron mines of Ohio, while subsequently he removed westward to Colorado, there engaging in mining until the outbreak of the Civil war. His patriotic spirit being aroused, he enlisted as a member of the First Colorado Cavalry, serving for three years. On the expiration of that period he re-enlisted in St. Louis, becoming a member of the Ninth United States Veteran Volunteers and thus serving until after the close of hostilities. For four years, three months and four days, he had loyally defended the interests of the Union as a private and when the country no longer needed his aid he returned to Taylor county with a most creditable military record. About this time he was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Luritta Baker, a native of Tennessee. The young couple established their home on a farm in Holt township, where George W. Burrell engaged in the work of the fields until 1871, when he took up his abode in Grove township, where he owned one hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land and made his home until called to his final rest. In his political views, he was a stanch republican and was prominent in the local ranks of the party, acting as justice of the peace in Holt and Grove townships and also as township clerk of Grove township for two terms. His death occurred in 1893, at the age of fifty-five years, and he is still survived by his widow, who is a devoted member of the Baptist church and makes her home in Lenox. Unto this worthy couple were born six children, three sons and three daughters, as follows: Richard T., of this review; Morning Ann, the deceased wife of B. Huber; Mary Lucinda, the wife of Frank M. Severn, of Taylor county; Elihu, an attorney-at-law of Hobart, Oklahoma; Dora, the wife of Joseph Schmitt, of Lenox, Iowa; and Fred W., a resident of Divide, Colorado.

Richard T. Burrell was reared on his father's farms in Holt and Grove townships and in the acquirement of an education attended the district schools and the public schools of St. Joseph, Missouri. After putting aside his text-books he devoted his attention to general farming interests in Taylor county for a period of eight years, and now owns a tract of three hundred and thirty-three acres in Phillips county, Colorado. On retiring from the work of the fields, he edited and published the Gravity Independent at Gravity, Iowa, and subsequently studied law for three years under the preceptorship of A. D. Harris, of Gravity, and Flick & Jackson, of Bedford. On the 9th of October, 1902, in Des Moines, he was admitted to the bar before the supreme court, making an average of ninety-two per cent on all questions asked. He at once began practicing in Gravity and was prominently identified with the legal interests of that town until August, 1906, when he formed a partnership with L. T. McCoun and re-

moved to Bedford, where he has since prosecuted his profession as a member of the firm of McConn & Burrell. The zeal with which he has devoted his energies to his profession, the careful regard evinced for the interests of his clients and an assiduous and unrelaxing attention to all the details of his cases, have brought him a large business and made him very successful in its conduct. He owns a commodious and attractive home in Bedford and has also invested to some extent in real estate in Gravity.

On the 14th of March, 1889, Mr. Burrell was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Pegg, a native of Bureau county, Illinois, and a daughter of John H. and Sarah (Lowe) Pegg. The parents, who were natives of England, came to the United States a few years prior to the Civil war, settling in Bureau county, where Mrs. Pegg died in comparatively early life. In 1879, John H. Pegg came to Taylor county, Iowa, and here passed away in 1905, at the age of eighty-three years. Unto him and his wife were born four sons and two daughters: William; George; Thomas; Elizabeth; John; and Annie, the wife of Charles Donaldson. Mr. and Mrs. Burrell have become the parents of three children, namely: Elsie, Beulah and Glenn.

A stalwart republican in his political affiliation, Mr. Burrell has taken an active and helpful interest in the local work of the party and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have called him to various positions of public trust. For seven years he acted as justice of the peace and for two years served as mayor of Gravity, his administration being characterized by reform and improvement. Fraternally he is connected with the Blue Lodge of Masons at Gravity and also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, being clerk of the camp at Gravity, for three years. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist church, with which his wife is also identified. His influence has ever been given on the side of truth, justice and right and he is widely recognized as a substantial and public-spirited citizen, as well as successful attorney, of his native county.

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### J. L. JACOBY.

The enterprising city of Lenox, Iowa, numbers among its representative business men J. L. Jacoby, who is engaged in real-estate dealings. He has also been identified with agricultural interests of Taylor county, having owned and operated a farm in Platte township and for six years he conducted a clothing store in Lenox. His diversified interests and activities have constituted him one of the leading business men of his locality. He was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, December 20, 1847, and is a son of David Jacoby, whose birth also occurred in Franklin county. He was reared there and after attaining his majority wedded Mary B. Wonderly, also a native of the same county. For a number of years David Jacoby followed farming there and with one exception all of their children were born in Pennsylvania. In the spring of 1852 they removed to Illinois, where Mr. Jacoby purchased a farm in La Salle county, making his home thereon throughout the remainder of his days, both he and his



wife passing away on the old home place. He was seventy years of age when called to his final rest on the 5th of August, 1884, while his wife died June 13, 1874, at the age of fifty-six years. In their family were three sons and three daughters, all of whom reached adult age, while J. L. Jacoby and his three sisters are yet living.

In the spring of 1852, the subject of this review accompanied his parents to La Salle county, Illinois, and there assisted his father in opening up a new farm near Mendota although there was no town nor railroad there at the time of their arrival. J. L. Jacoby assisted in the arduous task of developing and cultivating new land. He pursued his early education in the district schools and afterward attended the schools of Mendota, remaining with his father until twenty-seven years of age, during which period he assisted in carrying on the farm work.

On the 30th of September, 1874, in Mendota, Illinois, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Jacoby and Miss Sarah S. Corkins, who was born near Bennington, Vermont, and was a daughter of Henry B. and Mary (Draper) Corkins. Her parents were also natives of Bennington county and were early settlers of La Salle county, where the father opened up a farm and reared his family of three daughters. He afterward took up his abode in the city of Mendota, where he spent his remaining days in honorable retirement from labor. There he died November 16, 1905, while his wife passed away August 15, 1901. Mrs. Jacoby had been brought to Illinois by her parents in 1856 and was reared and educated in La Salle county. In 1875, the young couple established their home in Bureau county, about three miles west of Mendota, where he owned and cultivated one hundred and twenty acres of land. Later he purchased eighty acres near the old home farm and thus became the owner of two hundred acres, constituting two well improved and valuable farms. He continued to carry on general agricultural pursuits from 1875 until 1892, when he had opportunity to sell to good advantage, after which he came to Iowa and made investment in one hundred and sixty acres of land in Taylor county, arriving here in 1893. Subsequently he bought one hundred and sixty acres more. He personally cultivated one of his farms for a year and then located in Lenox, where he purchased residence property, which he now occupies. In 1903, he established a clothing business, which he successfully conducted for about six years. He has also dealt to some extent in real estate, handling Texas and Kansas lands and his varied business interests have been so capably conducted as to bring to him substantial and gratifying success.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Jacoby has been blessed with two children: Lee D., who is now in the real estate business handling Dakota lands; and Gail L., who holds a responsible position in a mercantile house at Corpus Christi, Texas.

In his political views Mr. Jacoby has always been a stalwart democrat and while living in Bureau county, Illinois, served for seven or eight years as supervisor, after which he resigned. He was several times elected to the position of tax collector in Bureau county, Illinois and in Lenox; served one term as justice of peace and as a member of the town council. He was the president of the Mutual Insurance Company in Bureau county, Illinois, having been the incum-

bent in the office for some years, and for several years was treasurer of the local agricultural board. During the sixteen years of his residence in this county he has been closely identified with its substantial and progressive development, giving his aid and influence to every movement for the public good, while his labors at all times are of a practical and, therefore, of a beneficial character. He is numbered among the most progressive business men of the town and along various lines in which he has operated he has won the success which always follows persistent and earnest effort.

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### WILLIAM E. CRUM.

Honored and respected by all, there is no man who occupies a more enviable position in professional and financial circles in Taylor county than William E. Crum, an able attorney-at-law and the president of the Bedford National Bank. In his practice he holds to a high standard of professional ethics and while his devotion to his clients' interests is proverbial, he never forgets that he owes a higher allegiance to the majesty of the law. In his outside business affairs as well, he is known as a man of the utmost reliability as well as keen discernment and of unfaltering enterprise and, as the head of the Bedford National Bank, is controlling one of the most substantial financial concerns of this part of the state. He is one of Iowa's native sons, his birth having occurred in Muscatine county, February 22, 1845. The family comes of German lineage, and was early founded in Pennsylvania, where Peter Crum, the grandfather of William E. Crum, was born and reared. He was a farmer by occupation and removing to the west, died near Indianapolis, Indiana, when past middle life. He married a Miss Eichelberger and their son, William Crum, became the father of William E. Crum of this review. He was a native of Pennsylvania and a printer by trade. The year 1839 witnessed his arrival in what was then the territory of Iowa, for the state had not yet been admitted to the Union. He located in Bloomington, now Muscatine, and established one of the first newspapers in Iowa. When the capital was removed from there to Iowa City, he made change in his place of residence and in Iowa City published the Iowa Standard. Later he conducted only a job printing office, also giving much time to the supervision of his landed interests, for from time to time he had made judicious investments in real estate. For a number of years he was also treasurer of the Iowa State University. He left the impress of his individuality in many ways upon the growth and development of the state, his labors constituting a valuable and essential factor in the work of general improvement. He married Elvira Odell, a native of Ohio, in which state her father, the Rev. Odell was also born. He was a Methodist minister and became one of the pioneer preachers of Muscatine county, Iowa, where he died when more than sixty years of age. He married a Miss Drake who died comparatively young. They were the parents of ten children, including Mrs. Crum, who was a lady of many excellent traits of character, her life being in consistent harmony with her profession as a member of the Presbyterian church.



The death of William Crum occurred in Iowa City when he was sixty-two years of age, his wife surviving him for several years.

William E. Crum, whose name introduces this record, spent his boyhood in Iowa City, where he attended the public schools, later supplementing his early education by study in the state university. He was graduated from the law department there in 1869, and the same year was admitted to the bar. For a year he remained there and was married in Iowa City, in April, 1870. Soon afterward he came to Bedford where he has continued in practice to the present time and throughout the intervening years has been accorded by the concensus of public opinion a foremost position as a representative of the Taylor county bar. His knowledge of the law is comprehensive and exact, his application correct, his reasoning clear and cogent and his deductions logical. He has, therefore, been accorded an extensive clientage, his ability enabling him to successfully solve intricate legal problems while with most important litigation tried in the courts of the district he has been connected

In 1871, Mr. Crum formed a partnership with J. R. Van Fleet, his father-in-law, and opened a banking business under the firm name of Crum & Van Fleet. This association was continued for a number of years when the business was reorganized under a co-partnership and conducted under the name of the Bedford Bank. A further change was made when in 1899, the Bedford National Bank was organized with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars, to which is now added a surplus of fifty thousand dollars. Mr. Crum was its first president with F. E. Walker as vice-president and Charles E. Martin as cashier. In 1908 they erected a new bank building, the cost of which was in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars. It is supplied with a time lock and the latest modern improvements and equipments and its securities are such as to render it one of the safest moneyed institutions of this part of the state.

On the 26th of April, 1870, Mr. Crum was married to Miss Harriet R. Van Fleet, a daughter of John R. and Ellen (Smith) Van Fleet. Mrs. Crum was born in Iowa City, while her father was a native of Pennsylvania and her mother of Ohio. They became early settlers of Johnson county, Iowa, where they reared a family of eight children, four of whom reached years of maturity, namely: Harriett R.; Ella V., the wife of H. M. Henly, of Davenport, Iowa; Morgan M. Van Fleet, living in Reno, Nevada; and Maud V., the wife of Charles Porter, of Oskaloosa.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Crum were born two sons and two daughters. John R., the eldest, died at the age of twenty-six years. He was graduated from the Iowa State University. On completing the collegiate and law courses, he entered upon the practice of law in Bedford but at the time of his death was residing temporarily in Des Moines. He was greatly interested in athletics during his college days, becoming especially well known as a sprinter and his geniality made him a great favorite with his fellow students. Mary L. is the wife of Hal R. Reynolds, assistant cashier of the Bedford National Bank and they have two children—Hortense and Harriet. William E., a graduate of the Orchard Lake Military Academy and of the law department of the State University of Iowa, is now practicing his profession as junior member of the firm of Crum, Jaqua & Crum. Helen V. is the wife of John M. Thompson, of Boise City, Idaho, and they have



a daughter Virginia. The parents are members of the Presbyterian church, in which Mr. Crum is serving as an elder. In the work of the church they are actively interested, doing all in their power to promote its growth and extend its influence. Politically Mr. Crum is a republican and served for one term as mayor of Bedford and for two terms as a member of the board of supervisors. His ambition, however, has not been in the line of office seeking yet he is remiss in no duty of citizenship nor does he withhold his support from any movement which he deems of benefit to the community. He is a strong man, strong in his ability to plan and perform, strong in his honor and in his good name. Whatever he undertakes he accomplishes and the methods that he pursues are such as will bear the closest investigation and scrutiny.

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#### D. W. MILLER.

D. W. Miller, who carries on general farming and stock raising on section 25, Ross township, where he has made his home since 1902, is a native of Indiana, his birth having occurred in Osage county August 2, 1857. His father, Wesley Miller, was a native of Illinois and was married there to Miss Nancy Woodard. He became a resident farmer of Indiana, where he remained for some years, during which time three of his children were born. He later removed to St. Clair county, Missouri, where he also remained for a number of years, and then took up his abode in Nodaway, Missouri, about 1884.

D. W. Miller is one of the two children born unto his parents who are now living, his sister being Mrs. Lizzie Fitch, the wife of Carl Fitch of Ottawa, Kansas. D. W. Miller was but a young lad when his parents removed from Indiana to Missouri and in that state he was reared, acquiring his education in the common schools, while the periods of vacation were devoted to the work of the farm. Arriving at mature years he rented land and thus carried on farming on his own account for several years, during which time he carefully saved his earnings until his economical expenditure had enabled him to acquire a sufficient sum to purchase a farm. He made investment in land in Nodaway county, Missouri, where he carried on farming for about six years, making substantial improvements upon his place during that period. Later he sold the property and bought where he now resides, becoming the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 25, Ross township, Taylor county. He has recently completed a large barn here, one of the finest in this part of the county. He has also set out many apple, peach and cherry trees and has otherwise improved the place, adding all of the modern equipment and accessories of a model farm. He has always engaged in raising stock and for some eight years has made a specialty of buying and dealing in mules, in which connection he has become widely known. He is a successful farmer and business man who wisely uses his opportunities and as the result of his indefatigable energy he has gained a creditable place among the substantial agriculturists of this part of the state.

Mr. Miller was married in Taylor county on the 22d of February, 1893, the lady of his choice being Miss Minnie Poulton, who was born and reared in this



county and is a daughter of I. N. Poulton. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have become the parents of five children, of whom four are yet living, Ruby, Isma, Beulah and Paul. In his political views Mr. Miller has always been a democrat and while living in Nodaway served as road overseer. In Ross township he has been identified with the public schools and at all times he gives earnest and loyal support to every movement calculated for the public good. He and his wife are members of the church of Christ and are much interested in its work and upbuilding, Mr. Miller serving as one of the elders of the Eagle congregation. The church is located on his farm and he contributes generously to its support. His is a well rounded character in which his different interests of life constitute well balanced features.

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### JAMES W. WALKER.

Farm work has always claimed and occupied the attention of James W. Walker, who, depending upon this occupation for his livelihood, has won his success by persistent, earnest and honorable effort. He lives on section 9, Jackson township, and is numbered among its public-spirited citizens as well as progressive farmers and stock-raisers. His holdings cover one hundred acres, constituting a neat and well improved farm, the thrifty appearance of the place being a visible evidence of the well directed activity of the owner.

Mr. Walker dates his residence in Iowa from 1901. He was born in Menard county, Illinois, July 15, 1862, and was there reared to manhood upon a farm, enjoying such educational advantages as were offered by the common schools. When not busy with his text-books he assisted in the work of the fields and remained with his father until after he had attained his majority. He received no financial assistance at the outset of his career, but placed his dependence upon industry, perseverance and determination and for about ten years he was in the employ of others as a farm hand. On reaching his majority he returned home and farmed with his father, the partnership between them continuing for about five or six years.

On the 26th of March, 1890, Mr. Walker was united in marriage to Miss Abbie H. Hornback who was born and reared in Menard county, Illinois, and was a daughter of Captain Robert Hornback, an old soldier and one of the representative citizens of Illinois. Following his marriage Mr. Walker rented land and thus engaged in farming for a number of years. In 1900 he came to Iowa and with the capital which he had saved from his earnings he made investment in the farm on which he now resides, becoming the owner of two hundred and eighty acres. In the spring of 1901 he removed to this place and began its further cultivation and improvement. He has repaired and remodeled the house and the barn, has fenced the land and has secured the latest improved machinery to facilitate the work of the fields. He now has a well developed property and in connection with the raising of corn, wheat and other cereals he also raises and feeds stock, handling cattle, sheep and hogs. After a time he sold one hundred acres of his farm, which he had purchased originally in connection with his brother-in-law. After they had disposed of a portion of this

Mr. Walker purchased his brother-in-law's interest and is now sole proprietor. He formerly fattened about two carloads of cattle each year, but he is not carrying on his stock-raising interests quite so extensively at the present time. However, his business affairs are capably managed and have brought to him substantial and gratifying success.

Mr. and Mrs. Walker are the parents of three children: Roy, who is assisting his father in carrying on the home farm; and Catherine and Arthur, who are also under the parental roof. The parents are members of the Forest Grove Baptist church, are active workers in its behalf and both are teachers in the Sunday school. Their lives are upright and honorable in every relation, meriting the confidence and good will which is so freely extended them.

Politically Mr. Walker has been a republican since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, always voting for the candidates of the party when national issues are involved but at local elections, however, he frequently casts an independent ballot. He has been elected and served as assessor of his township, although he was first appointed to fill a vacancy while he later was called to the office by popular suffrage. He has also been reelected and has now filled the position for five years. He has also been school director for a number of years and is now secretary of the board. Always interested and active in support of his party he has been a delegate to its county conventions and has done not a little in locally shaping its policy. Mr. Walker is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, with which he has been identified for a quarter of a century, having joined the organization in Illinois. He was initiated on attaining his majority and while living in Menard county he filled all of the chairs in the local lodge. He is also connected with the Modern Woodmen camp. A successful business man, well known as a farmer and stock-raiser, his strict integrity and worth have given him firm hold on the regard of his fellow townsmen.

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#### W. L. WRIGHT.

The farm property of W. L. Wright on section 25, Ross township, includes a tract of one hundred and fifty acres and a glance at the place is sufficient to indicate that the owner is thoroughly conversant with and employs the most modern methods in tilling the soil, in caring for the crops and in raising stock. He is meeting with success in all of his undertakings and his unfaltering industry has now made him one of the prosperous farmers of the county.

Mr. Wright's life record began in Bullitt county, Kentucky, on the 28th of December, 1854. His father, Benjamin Wright, was also a native of that state, born in Lexington. In early life he learned and followed the carpenter's trade. He was married in Kentucky to Miss Lucy A. Devall, a native of that state, and about 1860, they removed to Illinois, settling in Henderson county, where Mr. Wright followed carpentering for several years. In that county the death of the husband and father occurred. He left three children, W. L., Joseph and America E., who is now Mrs. Olmstead, a widow. In 1879, the mother with her family went to Iowa and she kept house for her son for some years and spent



her last days in the home of W. L. Wright, there passing away in 1904. His sister was married in Illinois and removed to York, Nebraska, and is now a widow. Joseph Wright also married in Illinois, later removed to Iowa and subsequently became a resident of Kansas, where his death occurred.

W. L. Wright was but a lad when he accompanied his parents on their removal from his native county to Henderson county, Illinois. There he was reared to manhood on the home farm and the task of tilling the fields and caring for the crops early became familiar to him. In 1869, he came to Iowa with his brother, Joseph Wright, who remained here for several years, but afterward removed to Kansas. W. L. Wright first rented land, as his financial resources were not sufficient to enable him to purchase property. He thus engaged in farming for several years, during which time he wisely saved his earnings until his industry and careful expenditure enabled him to purchase property. He first invested in forty acres in Ross township and cultivated that farm for several years, carefully improving the place so that it bore little resemblance to his original purchase when it passed out of his possession by sale. Having disposed of that property he bought eighty acres where he now resides and later he added to his landed holdings until he now has one hundred and fifty acres, constituting a valuable farm which borders the Iowa and Missouri state line. In connection with farming he raises and feeds stock and fattens from two to four carloads of cattle and hogs each year. This is an important feature of his business and annually brings to him a good financial return. His work is at all times carefully conducted and his success is the merited reward of earnest and persistent labor. Politically he has been a life long democrat but without desire for office, preferring always to give his undivided time and attention to his business affairs.

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#### WILLIAM RUTLEDGE.

The agricultural interests of Taylor county find a worthy representative in William Rutledge, who, although he has already passed the Psalmist's allotted span of three score years and ten, is still an active factor in the world's work. A son of Jacob and Frances Rutledge, he was born in Perry county, Ohio, on the 9th of November, 1835, and on his father's farm was reared to manhood. During the period of his boyhood and youth he attended the common schools and although he acquired a fair knowledge therein of the fundamental branches of English learning, he is nevertheless largely self-educated, having supplemented his early training by extensive reading and observation, and he has learned valuable lessons in the broader school of experience. He remained upon the home farm, assisting in the cultivation of the fields, until 1864, when, on the 2d of May he enlisted for one hundred days' service as a soldier in Company H, One Hundred and Sixtieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He participated in a number of skirmishes in which his regiment was engaged and after faithfully and bravely serving his term of enlistment was mustered out and honorably discharged on the 8th of September, 1864.



WILLIAM RUTLEDGE





When the country was no longer in need of his services Mr. Rutledge returned home and in the same year, accompanied by his father and the other members of the household, he started for Taylor county, Iowa, with a team and prairie schooner, arriving at their destination on the 18th of November, 1864, having been forty days and forty nights on the journey. The father located in Marshall township, where he opened up a farm and spent the remainder of his life, passing away on the 6th of May, 1872, when sixty-eight years of age. His wife survived until the 1st of August, 1891, lacking but twenty days of being ninety-five years of age at the time of her demise.

On his arrival in this county William Rutledge located upon a farm of eighty acres which he had purchased before coming to Iowa and which now comprises a part of his present property. When it came into his possession it was still in an undeveloped condition but he immediately set about breaking the sod and converting the land into productive fields. The soil was naturally rich and fertile and responded readily to the care and labor bestowed upon it, and so in the course of years he placed the land under a high state of cultivation. As he prospered he was able to add to his original purchase until at one time he was the owner of six hundred acres of fine farming land, constituting him one of the extensive landowners of the locality. He has since given portions of this property to his children and his home farm now consists of two hundred and forty acres located on sections 10 and 11, Marshall township. It is one of the well improved and valuable properties of the township and in its midst stands an attractive and modern residence, while in the rear he has erected two large barns and substantial outbuildings. He has set out a good orchard and grove and the place is adorned with some large and beautiful trees of his own planting. He devotes his time and attention to the tilling of the soil, is progressive in his methods and has conducted his interests along strictly up-to-date and modern lines, so that his industry, energy and perseverance are now finding ample reward in the gratifying degree of prosperity which is today his.

On the 31st of December, 1857, in Perry county, Ohio, Mr. Rutledge was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Biggs, a native of that county, and unto them have been born seven children, one son, Charles S., having passed away in infancy. The others are: Mary F., the wife of N. J. Smith, of Trenton, Nebraska; Ella Kate, who married C. S. Jones, a farmer of Marshall township; Alice, who is still under the parental roof; Abraham E., engaged in agricultural pursuits in Marshall township; T. T., who is married and now resides in Idaho; and J. E., a resident farmer of Marshall township.

The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Sharpsburg and occupy a high place in social circles of the community. Fraternally Mr. Rutledge is a Master Mason, holding membership in Conway blue lodge, while he maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades through his membership in Conway Post, G. A. R. A stalwart republican in politics, he cast his first ballot in 1856 for John C. Fremont, and since that time has voted for every presidential candidate on that ticket. He has been called to office, having served for several years as township clerk, township trustee and also justice of the peace, while he has been sent by his party as a delegate to various county conventions. Preeminently public-spirited in his citizenship, during the forty-



five years of his residence in Taylor county and he has been thoroughly identified with its growth and development. At the time of his arrival the county seat was a little village of about three hundred inhabitants and the railroads had not yet been laid. During the intervening years he has seen many changes along lines of general advancement and has at all times taken an active and helpful part in the work of improvement and development. Throughout his entire career he has been actuated by high ideals and manly principles and in his life record there has not been a single esoteric phase. A man of strict integrity and honesty of purpose, he has gained the esteem, confidence and good will of his fellowmen and the consensus of public opinion accords him a foremost place among the valued and respected citizens of Taylor county.

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#### HON. JAMES PATTON FLICK.

Hon. James Patton Flick has been a resident of Taylor county from the age of sixteen years and is now well known as a member of the firm of Flick & Flick, attorneys at law of Bedford. He has also gained distinction in other lines, having long been a prominent figure in political circles and the public has attested its faith in his ability and patriotic devotion to the general good by electing him as representative from this district to the state legislature and to congress. A native of Pennsylvania, he was born in Alleghany county, August 28, 1845, and in the paternal line comes of Holland lineage, the original American ancestors of the family having arrived in this country prior to the Revolutionary war. Joseph Flick, the grandfather, was a native of Virginia, whence he removed to Pennsylvania. He made farming his life work, served as a soldier in the War of 1812 and died in Butler county, Pennsylvania, at an advanced age, as did also his wife. They reared a large family, including John Flick, the father of James P. Flick. His birth occurred in Pennsylvania and in early life he became a tanner. In 1852 he removed westward to Iowa, settling within four miles of Ottumwa, where he engaged in farming. In 1857 he arrived in Taylor county, where he purchased a tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres, to which he added from time to time until his landed possessions aggregated between eight and nine hundred acres. He married Margaret Patton, also a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of James Patton, who was born in the north of Ireland and was of Scotch descent. Coming to America, he settled in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, where he followed the occupation of farming. He died there in middle life, while his wife, Mrs. Mary (Murray) Patton, lived to the very advanced age of ninety-one years. They, too, had a large family, including Mrs. Margaret Flick. John Flick died in Bedford, Iowa, when about seventy-six years of age, and his wife passed away five years before. They were originally Presbyterians but afterward united with the Methodist church and were earnest Christian people. At the time of the Civil war he served as a captain of Company B, Ninth Iowa Cavalry, and died as a result of wounds sustained in that struggle. Unto him and his wife were born four sons and three daughters.

of whom two sons survive: James P.; and William H., a farmer of Blockton, Iowa.

Hon. James P. Flick was only seven years of age when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Iowa, and from the age of eleven he has lived in Taylor county. Here he was reared on the farm and attended the district schools, and after his marriage he engaged in farming for a year. He then took up the study of law under R. B. Kinsell in Bedford, and was admitted to the bar in 1870. Since that time he has practiced continuously in this city with growing success and his ability and the nature of the legal interests entrusted to him places him in the front rank among the members of the bar in this part of the state.

On the 31st day of October, 1865, Mr. Flick was united in marriage to Miss Amanda King, a daughter of John and Sarah (Hankins) King. They became the parents of two sons and four daughters. Florence, the eldest, is now the wife of Albert L. Cochrane, and they reside in Denver, Colorado with their two children, Albert Bruce and Nellie. Cora is the wife of Charles B. Bell, a resident of Bedford, Iowa, and they have two children, Maud and Beatrice. Maud is the wife of R. V. Lucas of Bedford and they have three children, James, Cora and Lucile. Nellie is a stenographer. Donald Cameron, who was a soldier in the Philippine campaign, belonged to Company I, Fifty-first Iowa Infantry, and lived in Denver. He died at the age of twenty-six years at Bedford, Iowa. Bruce J., the youngest of the family, after being graduated from the Bedford high school, attended the State University at Iowa City, also the law department of Drake University, and studied law under his father in his office in Bedford. He was admitted to the bar in 1903 and since that time has been successfully practicing with his father. He married Alice Josephine Dunning. The mother of these children, Mrs. Amanda Flick, died April 10, 1882. She was born at West Point, Lee county, Iowa, her parents having been early settlers of that locality. For his second wife Mr. Flick chose Mrs. Mary A. Griffin, the widow of Joshua Griffin and a daughter of Henry Sadlier.

Mr. Flick belongs to Taylor Lodge, No. 156, F. & A. M. and advancing in Masonry, became a member of Triangle Chapter, No. 68, R. A. M. and Creston Commandery, No. 29, K. T. He is also entitled to wear the Grand Army button and holds membership in Sedgwick Post. In 1862 when a young man of but seventeen years, he responded to the country's call for aid, enlisting in Company K, Fourth Iowa Infantry, with which he served until September, 1864. He was a non-commissioned officer and took part in all of the engagements in which his regiment participated except the battles of Pea Ridge and Bentonville. After the war he returned home and was elected county recorder. It was while filling that position for two years that he studied law and afterward entered upon the active practice of his profession, continuing in that field of labor up to the time of his demise. He has not only been active in the interpretation of the law before the courts but also in framing the legislation of the state and nation. He was elected to the seventeenth general assembly of Iowa, where he served for one term and then refused a renomination. Subsequently he was appointed by Governor Geer to succeed Smith McPherson as district attorney of the third judicial district and filled out that term one year. He was then elected for the



succeeding term of four years, after which the office was abolished by the legislature. He was also elected in the eighth congressional district to the fifty-first and fifty-second congresses and proved an able working member of that body, being connected with not a little constructive legislation. Since that time he has given attention to the practice of law. Faultless in honor, fearless in conduct and stainless in reputation, his record in public and private life is alike above reproach, commending him to the confidence, respect and honor of all with whom he is brought in contact.

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#### ALONZO SANFORD.

Alonzo Sanford is numbered among those residents of Lenox whose labor in previous years now makes it possible for them to live retired from the active duties of business life and enjoy in well earned rest the fruits of their former toil. He is a native of New York state, his birth occurring in Herkimer county on the 3d of September, 1844, his parents being Silas and Eunice (Flansberry) Sanford, the former born in Connecticut and the latter in New York. The father went to the Empire state in early manhood and was there married. He purchased a farm there and continued in its operation until 1852, when he came west and located in McDonough county, Illinois, where he opened up a new farm and cast in his lot with the early pioneer settlers. He made his home within the borders of that county until the time of his death, which occurred about 1869, his wife surviving until 1899. In their family were four sons and five daughters, all of whom were born in New York and reared in Illinois. Three sons and a daughter still survive.

Amid the scenes and environments of pioneer life Alonzo Sanford spent the years of his boyhood and youth, and with the other members of the family assisted in opening up new land and cultivating and improving the home farm. He remained under the parental roof until nineteen years of age, and then, desiring to assist his country in her hour of need, he left home and became a soldier in the Civil war, enlisting in February, 1863, as a member of Company D, One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for a term of one year. He went south to Tennessee and Mississippi and saw much active service with his regiment, and during this time took part in the battle of Memphis. He was honorably discharged at the close of his term of enlistment, but later he reenlisted in February, 1864, joining Company A, Eleventh Illinois Cavalry. He again went south to Tennessee and Mississippi and participated in numerous skirmishes and small fights. He was detailed to serve as General A. J. Smith's bodyguard for a time, and then returned to company duty, continuing in active service until the close of the war. He was honorably discharged at Springfield in November, 1865, and with a most creditable military record returned home, where he remained on the farm for some time.

Mr. Sanford was united in marriage in McDonough county, September 30, 1869, to Miss Lydia Crandle, a native of Ohio where she was reared. They began their domestic life upon a farm in that county, which Mr. Sanford continued to operate in the capacity of renter until 1870. In that year he came to

Taylor county, Iowa, and rented a farm for two or three years, and then located in Platte township, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land. The farm was but partially developed when it came into his possession, but with characteristic energy he directed his efforts toward its further improvement and with the passing of the years brought his fields under a high state of cultivation. He erected a comfortable and attractive residence, substantial barns and out-buildings, set out a good grove and orchard and enclosed the entire place with well kept fences. Under his careful and wise management the place became one of the valuable and desirable farming properties of the township, in its neat and well improved appearance indicating the industry and thrift of its owner. Possessing good business ability, systematic, methodical and progressive in his methods, as the years passed he was able to attain a most substantial and gratifying success which placed him above the necessity for further labor and made it possible for him to withdraw from the active duties of business life. Consequently in 1880 he sold his homestead and removed to Lenox, where he has since continued to make his home. He built the beautiful dwelling which is now occupied by himself and wife, and also owns three other residences which he erected and which are returning to him a substantial annual rental.

Mr. and Mrs. Sanford are both prominent and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Lenox, in which he has been a class leader for years and has also been actively and helpfully interested in Sunday-school work. He is republican in politics and since age conferred upon him the right of franchise has given stalwart support to the party which was the defense of the Union during the dark days of the Civil war. He holds pleasant relations with his old army comrades through his membership in the Grand Army Post of Lenox, and in all matters of citizenship is as loyal to the old flag as when he carried it upon southern battlefields. A gentleman of strict integrity and true personal worth, he has gained the confidence and esteem of his fellowmen and the consensus of public opinion accords him a high place among the representative and valued residents of Taylor county, within whose borders he has resided for nearly forty years. He has passed the sixty-fifth milestone on life's journey, and now in the evening of life can look back upon the past without regret and forward to the future without fear.

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B. F. KAUBLE.

It has been said that there is nothing so attractive as a nickname. It indicates good comradeship, friendly feeling and congeniality and all these are evidenced in the familiar address which has made the subject of this review known throughout his section of the country as Doc Kauble. He resides on section 28, Jefferson township, and is one of the active and prosperous farmers and stock-raisers of the locality, owning and cultivating four hundred and fifty-five acres of land, pleasantly and conveniently located within a half mile of Athelstan. For fifty-five years he has been a resident of Taylor county, arriving when a youth of thirteen. His birth had occurred at Hancock county, Indiana, on the 8th of



January, 1840, and in 1842 the family had removed westward to Andrew county, Missouri, where his parents died during his early childhood.

Mr. Kauble was then reared by his grandparents, John and Elizabeth Kauble, who in 1853 removed to Iowa, taking up their abode upon the place where their grandson now resides. Here the grandfather entered one hundred and sixty acres from the government and of this amount eighty acres was given to B. F. Kauble, in recognition of his care of his grandparents in their declining years. In his youthful days he assisted in the arduous task of breaking the sod and fencing the fields and as the years went by he continuously worked to improve and develop the property. The only interruption to his active life of farming came at the time of the Civil war when in August, 1863, he joined the Ninth Iowa Cavalry under command of Captain Flick of Bedford, thus serving until after the close of the war when he received an honorable discharge at Davenport in April, 1866. He was engaged in fighting the bushwhackers and in doing guard duty on the frontier.

Soon after his return home Mr. Kauble was married on the 17th of June, 1866, to Miss Dorothy Brown, who was born in Indiana, but was reared in Taylor county, Iowa. The young couple began their domestic life upon the farm which has since been their home and, laboring diligently and persistently, Mr. Kauble has been enabled to add to his holdings from time to time until he now owns four hundred and forty-five acres in one tract. On this he has erected a good residence, set out an orchard and has made the place what it is today—one of the finest farms of the county. He broke most of the prairie himself for the greater part of it was railroad land when it came into his possession. The fields now make ready response in golden harvests to the care and labor which he bestows upon them and in connection with general farming Mr. Kauble raises and feeds cattle, hogs and horses, his specialty, however, being the fattening of hogs.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Kauble have been born eleven children of whom six are yet living, two sons and four daughters: Frank and William A., who assist in carrying on the home farm; Hannah, the wife of J. W. Kobbe, of Montana; Mary Elizabeth, the wife of Frank Campbell, a farmer of Jefferson township; O. A., at home; and Dorothy Margaret, the wife of Charles Williamson, now living in the panhandle of Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Kauble are members of the Baptist church of Athelstan, in which he is serving as a trustee. His political endorsement is given to the democracy and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability have called him to a number of local offices. For two years he served as township trustee and for five years was justice of the peace. He has also been a member of the school board for about thirty years and gives earnest endorsement to the cause of public education. In all matters of citizenship he is as true and loyal as when he defended the old flag on southern battlefields. He is one of the best known citizens of his part of the county, having resided on one farm for more than a half century while through the period of his residence here he has been a witness of almost the entire growth and progress of this part of the state. He remembers Bedford when it was a crossroads village with one small store, has seen the building of the railroads and the transformation of wild land into highly improved

farms, in the midst of which are good schools and churches while towns and villages have sprung up and afford to the county all the opportunities and advantages known to the civilization of the older east. Mr. Kauble has a very wide acquaintance in this part of the state and the sterling traits which he has displayed have given him firm hold on the regard of those with whom he has been associated.

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### C. B. WYSONG.

C. B. Wysong, living on section 22, Clayton township, is one of the thrifty and prosperous farmers and stock raisers of Clayton township. His home is situated about four and a half miles east of Bedford and his energies are concentrated upon the cultivation and development of a tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres. Few residents of the county can claim a longer connection with its interests, for Mr. Wysong arrived here in 1855. He had previously lived in Monroe county, Iowa, for two years, having been brought by his parents to this state in 1853, when but two years old. His birth occurred in Coles county, Illinois, January 4, 1851, his parents being William and Eliza (Webb) Wysong, natives of Floyd county, Virginia, and of Kentucky, respectively. The father was reared in the place of his nativity and then removed westward to Putnam county, Indiana, where he married Miss Webb. He afterward took up his abode in Coles county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming for four years, and on his arrival in Iowa in 1853 he established his home in Monroe county, where he lived until 1855, when he came to Taylor county. Here he preempted land—a tract of virgin prairie—on which he turned the first furrow. After the breaking plow came the planting and in due course of time harvests were gathered. Year by year he carefully tilled the fields until his property was transformed into a valuable and productive farm. Upon this place he reared his family and spent his last years, making the farm his home for forty years and two days, or until the time of his death, which occurred in September, 1895. He survived his wife for two years, her death occurring in December, 1893.

C. B. Wysong was brought to Taylor county by his parents when in his fifth year and was here reared, remaining with his father until he attained the age of twenty-two. He then completed his arrangements for having a home of his own by his marriage on the 1st of January, 1873, to Miss Amy J. Marshall, who was born in Fulton county, Illinois, and there spent her girlhood days. After their marriage they took up their abode on a farm in Benton township, Mr. Wysong renting land for two years, during which time he carefully saved his earnings so that he was then enabled to purchase eighty acres of the farm upon which he now makes his home. He broke the land, planted his crops, built a house and has carried on the work of general improvement to the present time, the excellent results of his labors being manifested in the attractive appearance of the place. He has also made other investments in property and now has one hundred and sixty acres in the home farm. In the midst of well tilled fields stands an attractive residence and large barn, while an orchard yields its fruits in season and shade and ornamental trees add to the attractive appearance of the



place. In addition to this property Mr. Wysong also has an adjoining tract of land of forty acres. He annually gathers good crops which he rotates that the soil may be kept in rich condition, and in addition he raises the cereals adapted to soil and climate and likewise raises high grade short horned cattle and good horses and hogs, annually fattening a large number of hogs for the market.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wysong have been born two children: Frank E., who is married and resides in Bedford; and Harry Elmer, who met death by accident July 24, 1905, when twenty-six years of age. He left a son, Charles Glen Wysong, who is now living with his grandparents.

In his political views Mr. Wysong is a republican but though he always supports the party at the polls he has never sought nor desired office for himself. He was reared in the faith of the Christian church and his wife is a member of that denomination. He belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge at Bedford, in which he has filled all of the chairs and is a past grand. He has also attended the grand lodge of the state and both he and his wife are connected with the Rebekah Lodge. Mr. Wysong is also a member of the encampment and a patriach and is in thorough sympathy with the beneficent spirit of the order. He is well known in Bedford and Taylor county as a prosperous farmer and good business man and merits and enjoys the confidence and esteem of his fellowmen. He has lived to see remarkable changes in the county where he has now made his home for more than a half century. With the family he shared in the hardships and privations of pioneer life, assisted in the arduous task of developing new farms and as the years have gone by has done splendid work in business lines, attaining success which placed him with the substantial agriculturists of the county.

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#### GEORGE DUGAN.

George Dugan, a resident of Taylor county since 1882, is now living in Bedford. He is, however, closely associated with agricultural interests being numbered among the prominent farmers and stock raisers of this part of the state. He owns and cultivates one hundred and seventy-five acres of land in Washington and Benton townships, a well improved, modern and valuable farm which he personally conducted for twenty years. A native of Illinois, he was born November 27, 1843, in McDonough county, but was reared in Stark county. No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of life for him in his boyhood and youth. He acquired his early education in the public schools and afterward attended Toulon Seminary, but when eighteen years of age put aside his text-books and all other considerations that he might respond to the country's call for troops, enlisting on the 12th of June, 1861, as a member of Company B, Nineteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, this company being comprised mostly of Stark county men. The regiment was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee in Cumberland, and the first battle in which he participated was that at Stone River, where he was wounded, his right hand being pierced by a bullet from an enemy's rifle. He was later discharged on account of this in-



jury at Louisville, Kentucky, and returned home but as soon as he had sufficiently recovered he again offered his services, reenlisting in 1863, at which time he was assigned to duty with the boys in blue of Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Illinois Infantry. He went south to Cairo, doing guard duty and scouting. He returned home to be mustered out, but decided to remain in the service and was sent to Missouri to do guard duty. Subsequently he was mustered out at Peoria, Illinois, and returned to his home in 1865. Once more he enlisted during the closing year of the war, joining the One Hundred and Fifty-first Illinois Infantry. He went as far as Dalton, Georgia, but became ill and was unfitted for duty. He marched, however, from Nashville to Murphreesboro, but the exposure and hardship which he suffered made him ill. Later he was sent south to Dalton, but was not fit for duty any of the time and was mustered out and honorably discharged at Camp Butler. He then returned home and spent a year or so in recuperating, for his health had become greatly impaired through the exposure and hardships which he had suffered at the front.

After he had recovered his health Mr. Dugan was married in Stark county, Illinois, on the 20th of October, 1868, to Miss Appalona Parish, who was there born and reared. They located on a farm south of Toulon, and there Mr. Dugan carried on general agricultural pursuits until 1882. He owned a tract of land there of two hundred acres and carefully cultivated his fields year by year until he finally sold out and came to Iowa, making investment in two hundred and ten acres of land in Washington and Benton townships of Taylor county. In the spring of that year he removed his family to his new home and at once began to farm and further improve the property, continuing to successfully cultivate his fields there until 1901. He brought from Illinois some pure bred shorthorn cattle and for several years made a business of breeding and selling shorthorn cattle. He also engaged in breeding and dealing in Poland China hogs for several years. In 1901, content with what he had acquired, recognizing that his means were sufficient to supply him with all of the necessities and comforts of life he removed to Bedford and purchased a good residence together with a six-acre tract of land. Here he is now living practically retired, giving his supervision to his invested interests. He owns a sixty-acre farm in Benton township, also eighty acres in Gay township. Since starting out on his own account he has been a successful farmer, trader and business man and his efforts, directed by sound and intelligent judgment, have brought him the gratifying measure of prosperity which he now enjoys.

Mr. and Mrs. Dugan have a family of five children. Their only son, Thomas, is married and follows farming on the home place. The daughters are: Cynthia, the wife of Harry Timberlake, a resident farmer of Mason township; Alice, the deceased wife of M. M. O'Dell, of New Market, Iowa; Mary, the wife of Ed. Holmes, now of Canada; Grace, the wife of P. C. Miller of Conway, Iowa; and Theo Bell, the wife of George E. Masters of Polk township. They also lost a son, Archie, who died at the age of five years, and three children who died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Dugan are consistent and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Bedford, and Mr. Dugan also belongs to the Masonic lodge, while he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star. Mr. Dugan likewise



belongs to the Grand Army Post at Bedford. He is one of the most prosperous and well known business men of Taylor county and has the confidence and esteem of all who know him. His political allegiance is given to the republican party, which he supported first in 1868, when he probably cast his ballot for General Grant. He has been officially identified with the schools and has served as road supervisor for several years. His record has at all times been commendable and his labors have brought him gratifying and well merited reward.

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#### HON. WILLIAM COBB.

The life work of William Cobb has been far-reaching and beneficial in its effects. He has been closely associated with the material, political and moral progress of the community and is equally well known as a prominent business man and farmer, as a legislator and as one who has devoted much of his time to the work of the ministry. The forces of his life are thus nicely balanced, making a well rounded character, while his life work has been one of general usefulness. He is numbered among the old settlers of Iowa, dating his residence in the state from 1845, when he made his way to Keokuk. Later he went to Delaware county in 1854 and in the year 1855 arrived in Taylor county. The history of this part of the state is therefore largely familiar to him and he has been no unimportant factor in molding its policy and shaping its destiny.

Mr. Cobb is a native of Indiana, his birth having occurred in Park county, November 17, 1839. He is a son of Thomas Cobb, who was born in Owen county, Kentucky, but went to Indiana when a lad of about eight years. He was there married in Park county and turned his attention to farming, which he followed in that locality for several years, during which time two of his sons and four of his daughters were born. Removing from Delaware county to Taylor county he here opened up a farm with the help of his sons and spent his last years in this locality, the evening of his days being passed in the home of his son, William Cobb. He was one of the respected and honored pioneer residents of this part of the state and is yet remembered by many of the early settlers.

William Cobb arrived here when a youth of about sixteen years. He had to some extent attended the common schools but is largely a self-educated man, gaining practical and valuable knowledge by reading, investigation and through experience. He assisted in opening up his father's farm and remained there until his marriage. He was a young man of twenty years, when on the 5th of November, 1859, he wedded Miss Fada Agler, who was born in Carroll county, Indiana, and was a daughter of Daniel Agler. Mrs. Cobb arrived in Taylor county when a maiden of fourteen summers and was here reared.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Cobb located on the place where he now resides. He commenced with a tract of land of eighty acres and continued its cultivation and improvement until after the outbreak of the Civil war, when, feeling that his first duty was to his country he offered his services to the



WILLIAM COBB AND FAMILY





government, enlisting on the 9th of August, 1862, as a member of Company F, Twenty-ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. The regiment was assigned to the Trans-Mississippi department and Mr. Cobb with his command participated in the battle of Helena, Arkansas, later in the engagement at Memphis Ferry and subsequently in the siege of Mobile, Alabama. He was afterward in various running fights and continued in active service until after the close of the war, being mustered out at New Orleans, Louisiana, August 10, 1865. He was then honorably discharged at Davenport, Iowa, and reached home on the 1st of September. Immediately he resumed farming and was closely identified with general agricultural pursuits until 1891. He bought more land from time to time and also bought and sold land both in Kansas and Missouri. In 1866, he removed to Lawrence county, Missouri—the Ozark mountain country—where he improved a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, continuing its cultivation for two years, after which he sold that property and returned to Taylor county.

Mr. Cobb put aside his agricultural interests when in 1891, he was elected county treasurer of Taylor county, taking charge of the office in January, 1892. He served as treasurer for four years, being reelected on the expiration of his first term of two years. The public found him a faithful custodian of the funds and he retired from office as he had entered it—with the confidence and good will of all concerned. He then returned to the farm and resumed the active work of the fields. He has, however, served in other local positions, acting as assessor, trustee and in other offices of trust. In 1903, he was elected to represent his district in the state legislature and proved an able working member of that body, connected with much important constructive legislation. While a member of the house, he did duty on committees of ways and means, roads and highways, military, suppression of intemperance, the agricultural and industrial schools, the orphans home and the soldiers home committee. After his duties at the state capitol were ended he returned to the farm and in connection with the raising of grains he is engaged in raising stock. He now owns two hundred acres of land, including one hundred and twenty acres in the home place, which he has cleared and developed, making it a valuable property. He now makes his home in town, however, where he has erected a comfortable residence.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Cobb have been born four sons: Charles S., who is married and follows farming in Ringgold county, Iowa; Thomas E., who is married and carries on general farming in Ross township; Floyd M., who is married and is a farmer of Ross township; and Leslie R., who is married and also carries on general agricultural pursuits in the same township. Mr. and Mrs. Cobb also lost two children: Margaret S., who died at the age of five years; and Harvey B., who died in his second year. Mr. Cobb belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has filled all of the chairs of the local lodge. He is a past grand and both he and his wife are connected with the Rebekah degree. That he is prominent and popular among his brethren of the fraternity is indicated by the fact that they have six times sent him as representative to the grand lodge. Both he and his wife are members of the Church of Christ and Mr. Cobb is one of the official board of the church and an active worker in the Sunday-school. In fact he is untiring in his efforts to promote the church work and for years has been connected with the ministry, preaching and holding services through-



out Taylor county, Iowa, and in Nodaway county, Missouri. He has been tireless in his efforts to extend the influences of the gospel through the teachings of his church and all of his labors have been without remuneration.

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### JAMES H. DAUGHERTY.

James H. Daugherty is the junior partner in the firm of Churchill & Daugherty, proprietors of a livery, feed and sales stable in Bedford. He is one of Taylor county's native sons, his birth having occurred within the borders of the county December 21, 1861. His parents were Abner N. and Ellen (Harris) Daugherty, natives of Indiana and Tennessee respectively. The paternal grandfather, Robert Daugherty, lived and died in Orange county, Indiana, there passing away when about eighty years of age. He always carried on agricultural pursuits as his life work. His wife, Mrs. Sarah Daugherty, lived to be about eighty years of age. They had a large family, including: Warden; Gideon; John; Abner; Joseph; James; Samuel; Hannibal; and Sarah, the wife of Samuel Mahan.

The maternal grandfather of our subject was Shelton Harris, who with his wife removed from Tennessee to Indiana and settled in Orange county, where he died. His wife was born in Tennessee and in her maidenhood bore the name of Lucinda Childers. Mr. Harris died about 1840, when in middle age, and his widow afterward came to Iowa about 1856 and died in Bedford in 1884, when more than seventy years of age. They were the parents of seven children who lived to maturity, namely: Samuel, William, Thomas, Ellen, Margaret, Elizabeth and Caroline.

Mr. and Mrs. Abner N. Daugherty removed from Indiana to Iowa in 1856 and settled in Taylor county, where the former purchased a farm of one hundred acres. Subsequently he sold that property and took up a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Benton township. This he improved and from time to time he made further investment in property until his landed possessions aggregated five hundred acres. Upon the home farm he passed away in 1887 and his widow still survives and now resides in Bedford. They were Baptists in religious faith but not identified with any church. Mr. Daugherty served as a soldier in the Mexican war and was always loyal to the best interests of citizenship.

James H. Daugherty was reared on his father's farm in Taylor county and has always made his home within the borders of the county, attending the district schools in his youthful days, while the vacation periods were devoted to work in the fields. After attaining his majority he engaged in farming for himself on the old homestead for a few years, having been appointed executor of his father's estate. There he lived until he was married, while subsequently he removed to Bedford, where he made his home for two years. He then returned to the farm, where he lived for four years, after which he again went to Bedford and engaged in the livery business, which he conducted alone for two years. He then admitted William Churchill to a partnership and they

not only conduct a livery business but also engage largely in the purchase and sale of horses and conduct a feed stable. Their business is extensive and is profitably managed, intelligent direction of the owners bringing to them gratifying success.

On the 8th of March, 1888, Mr. Daugherty married Miss Cyrena A. Rockwell (called at home "Pink"), a daughter of Robert B. and Jane (Ballou) Rockwell. There are two children of that marriage, Clara R. and Lena G. Mrs. Daugherty, who was a devoted member of the Presbyterian church and a most estimable lady, passed away in June, 1896. She was born in Taylor county, where her parents located at an early day. Their family numbered six children of whom three are now living: Mary, the widow of Bert Hedley; Ruth, the wife of Edward Trotter; and Ursula, the widow of John Vosburg.

Mr. Daugherty belongs to Taylor Lodge, No. 156, A. F. & A. M., and also to the Eastern Star, while his political allegiance is given to the democracy. Mr. Daugherty is now serving as sheriff of Taylor county, having been elected in November, 1908.

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### JOHN W. BECK.

The ranks of the old soldiers are fast becoming disseminated as one by one they answer to the last roll call. Among those who are still living in Taylor county is John W. Beck, who was a lad of nineteen years when he offered his services to the country in defense of the Union cause. Through a long period he was closely associated with the agricultural interests of this locality but is now living retired, deriving a substantial income from his investments in farm lands. He was born in Washington county, Ohio, February 4, 1843. His father, Vivian Beck, was a native of Kentucky and a son of Edward Beck, who was born in New Jersey and became an early settler of Kentucky. Subsequently he removed to Ohio and afterward to Owen county, Indiana, where he died at an advanced age. He devoted his entire life to the occupation of farming and also participated in the life of the community, especially in movements relative to the general good. He took part in the muster days, when such were a feature of every locality, in his early manhood. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Smith, died when a comparatively young woman. They were the parents of two sons and three daughters: Nancy, the wife of Moses Williamson; Tabitha, the wife of Aaron T. Price; Vivian; John and Elizabeth, who died unmarried.

Vivian Beck was reared to the occupation of farming and followed that pursuit as a life work. In 1869, he came to Iowa, settling in Ross township, Taylor county, where he and his son John purchased a farm of two hundred and twenty-six acres. He made his home on that property until 1892 and then removed to Bedford, where he died in 1897 when nearly eighty-five years of age. He is still survived by his widow, who has now passed the eighty-ninth milestone on life's journey. Both were members of the Methodist church and earnest and consistent Christian people. Mrs. Beck bore the maiden name of Sarah



Price and is a native of Ohio. Her father was Daniel Price who was born and reared in New Jersey and was a blacksmith by trade. He married Salome Fairchild and in 1839, they removed to Indiana, settling in Owen county, where Mr. Price died at the age of eighty-eight years, while his wife was nearly seventy-three years of age at the time of her demise. His parents were Isaac and Easter Price.

In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Vivian Beck were twelve children: Lydia, who has passed away; Tabitha, who became the wife of John Foster and later of Samuel Denney, but is now deceased; John Wesley; William E.; Salome J., who is the widow of Bluford Treadway; Prudence, the wife of Eldridge Duling; Theodore, who has departed this life; Elizabeth, the wife of Albert S. Dresher; Susanna, deceased; Aaron Thomas; Margaret V., the wife of William I. McElroy; and Vivian Kimball.

John W. Beck was only seven years of age when the family removed from Ohio to Indiana. There he remained up to the time of the Civil war when on the 6th of August, 1862, at the age of nineteen years he enlisted as a member of Company F, Sixth Indiana Cavalry. It was also called the Seventy-first Regiment. He served for three years lacking a few days and was in many of the hard fought battles which led up to the final victory that crowned the Union arms. He was with Sherman at Atlanta, after which the northern army was divided and under General Thomas he went to Nashville. While carrying orders during the Atlanta campaign he was under fire many times. He was an orderly, carrying orders for Major General Schofield and was near Major General McPherson, when he was killed. Mr. Beck was twice taken prisoner but was released on parole. He made a creditable military record by his unfaltering fidelity to duty on every occasion. After the war Mr. Beck returned to his Indiana home and was engaged in farming for three years. He then removed to Iowa and has since been a resident of Taylor county, covering more than forty years. He and his father purchased two hundred and twenty-six acres of land which they afterward sold and he is now the owner of two hundred and thirty acres in Livingston county, Missouri, from which he derives a substantial income. He likewise owns a fine home in Bedford and all of his business affairs have been capably managed, bringing him substantial success.

On the 22d of August, 1866, Mr. Beck married Miss Rachel A. Runyon, a daughter of Benjamin and Maria (Mangun) Runyon and a native of Carroll county, Ohio, born February 20, 1843. Her paternal grandparents were Robert and Mary Magdalene Runyon. The latter was born August 19, 1774. They were married in 1792 and lived happily together as man and wife for fifty-nine years. In 1817, they removed to Tuscarawas, now Carroll county, Ohio, where Mr. Runyon died August 1, 1849, at the age of eighty-four years, while Mrs. Runyon died April 23, 1868, at the very advanced age of ninety-three years, eight months and four days. She had seventeen children, eighty-three grandchildren, one hundred and fifty-five great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren. Her immediate family included Benjamin Runyon, who was born in Pennsylvania, while his wife was a native of Maryland. They removed to Owen county, Indiana, where the mother of Mrs. Beck passed away when seventy years of age. Mr. Runyon afterward came to Bedford, Iowa, and

died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Beck, at the age of eighty-one years. He was a farmer by occupation, devoting his life to the tilling of the soil. In their family were eleven children: Mary, deceased; Joseph, living in Hayes, Kansas; Jane, the widow of Isaac Price, of Spencer, Indiana; James, of Almena, Kansas; George, of Fairmount, Illinois; Mrs. Beck; Suzanne, of Bedford; Eliza, the deceased wife of Jacob K. Champer; and three who died in early childhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Beck are consistent members of the Methodist church and have been very active in the work of both church and Sunday-school. Mr. Beck is serving as one of the church stewards and is a liberal contributor to the support of the church. He also belongs to Sedgewick Post, No. 10, G. A. R., and thus maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades. He gives unfaltering allegiance to the republican party which was the defense of the Union in the dark days of the Civil war and has always been the party of reform and progress. On that ticket he was elected county recorder in 1892 and was reelected in 1894, serving altogether for four years, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity. In his business affairs his reliability, enterprise and diligence won him success that now enables him to live retired in the enjoyment of well earned rest.

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#### HARVEY A. WINN RAYNOR.

Harvey A. Winn Raynor, whose activity and enterprise in agricultural lines are bringing to him a most gratifying degree of success, was born in Mason township, Taylor county, November 12, 1861, a son of Henry and Miriam (Westenhofer) Raynor. The paternal grandfather, Henry Raynor, Sr., originally came from England, founding the family in Ohio, where his death occurred. His brother was Gabriel Raynor, while his son, Henry Raynor, Jr., was one of a family of four sons, the other three, Joseph, William and Lafayette, having all passed away. Henry Raynor, Jr., the father of our subject, was a pioneer farmer of Taylor county, who married Miriam Westenhofer, a daughter of George Westenhofer, who came of German lineage. She was one of a family of five children born to her parents, the others being Henry, George, James and Rhodes. She became the mother of the following children: Harvey A., of this review; William; Lafayette; Parker, now deceased; Ferdinand, who has also passed away; Austin; Lewis and Ulysses.

Reared under the parental roof, Harvey A. Raynor acquired his education in the district schools of Mason township, remaining a pupil therein until twenty-one years of age, and then, after laying aside his text-books, he assisted his father in the work of the farm until twenty-two years of age. A year subsequent to his leaving home he purchased a farm in Kansas, which he operated for a year, and then returned to his home and for a number of years was engaged in working the old homestead. Later he purchased the farm and has since devoted his energies to its further development. He carries on general farming and also engages in stock-raising, and has been signally successful in his business interests. He has made all of the improvements upon the farm, and



everything about the place indicates that he is in touch with the modern spirit of progress which is manifest in agricultural lines. The farm consists of one hundred and twenty acres of land, and is one of the valuable and highly improved properties in the township.

Mr. Raynor was united in marriage in Mason township on the 25th of December, 1883, to Miss Cora Smith, a daughter of Rev. Daniel T. and Frances (Jones) Smith. The Smith family originally came from Kentucky, D. T. Smith, the grandfather of Mrs. Raynor, having been identified with agricultural interests in that state. Rev. Daniel T. Smith was a minister of the Baptist church of Grainfield, Gove county, Kansas, and was a man of excellent character, whose life and influence were an inspiration to all with whom he came in contact. Mrs. Raynor was the sister of the following: Thomas J.; George W.; Theodosha; Mary; Edgar; Myrta; Abigail; James; and Dollie. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Raynor have been born four children, namely: Myrtle, the wife of R. C. Pittman, principal of the New Market high school; Lloyd; Flossie and Frank. The parents are members of the Baptist church of New Market, being actively interested in the various phases of the church work, while their lives are at all times in sympathy with their professions. Mr. Raynor gives his political allegiance to the republican party and does all in his power to further the interests thereof, while he has served as a director of the school board, the cause of education finding in him a warm champion. Fraternally he is a Master Mason, and his various interests have served to make his a well rounded nature, keenly alive to life's contacts and life's relations.

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#### K. C. LESTER.

Among the residents of Taylor county, who have gained high rank as prosperous and progressive farmers and stock raisers, is numbered K. C. Lester, who owns and operates a farm of three hundred and twenty acres on section 8, Jackson township. Of German ancestry, he was born July 3, 1867, in Floyd county, Virginia, a son of William S. and Rebecca (Cooke) Lester, the father's birth occurring in the same county on the 23d of January, 1832. William S. Lester was a farmer by occupation and also owned and operated a saw and gristmill in the Old Dominion. He remained in his native state until 1883, in which year he removed to Oklahoma, where he opened up a new farm which he operated for some time. He is now living retired, however, and makes his home with the subject of this review. His wife, who passed away in Oklahoma, was born and educated in Virginia, and there their entire family was reared.

The boyhood days of K. C. Lester were spent on his father's farm and he acquired his early education in the common schools of his native state. When about sixteen years of age he accompanied his parents on their removal to Oklahoma, where he assisted his father in the work of breaking and cultivating new land. The farm which they operated and upon which the family resided for some time is now a part of the property belonging to the State Agricultural College of Oklahoma, which institution K. C. Lester attended as a student for

four years. He was married in that state on the 2d of March, 1898, to Miss Dora Miller, who is a daughter of Jacob Miller of Nodaway county, Missouri, and was born and reared in that county.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester began their domestic life in Stillwater, Oklahoma, where Mr. Lester owned and operated two farms near that village. He resided in Stillwater for four years and then purchased his present place, to which he removed in 1902. His farm is a model one, large and finely improved, in the midst of which stands a large and comfortable residence, while he has also erected substantial barns and outbuildings. The farm is equipped with all modern conveniences as well as the latest devices for facilitating labor and is one of the finest to be found in the county. Mr. Lester, who is eminently up-to-date and progressive in his methods, is one of the very few farmers of Taylor county who attended an agricultural college, and the theoretical knowledge which he there acquired has been of the utmost value to him in his practical experience. In addition to general farming he engages extensively in raising and feeding stock and this branch of his business is proving a profitable source of revenue. His stock is of an excellent grade, which insures it a ready sale upon the market.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester was blessed with two children but they lost the eldest son, Worth J., who passed away at the age of fourteen months. The surviving son, Noble, is at home and is a student of the common schools.

In politics Mr. Lester casts his ballot in support of the democratic party on national issues, but in all matters of local interest he reserves the right to vote for the men and measures which in his judgment will best conserve public good. He has been closely identified with school interests, having served for some years on the school board, doing all in his power to bring about better conditions along educational lines. He holds membership with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Bedford, joining the order during his residence in Stillwater, Oklahoma. He has served as one of the officials and is in entire sympathy with the principles of the craft. Widely recognized as a man of true personal worth, he is honored and respected for his strict integrity, while he and his estimable wife are known near and far for their genuine hospitality. A man of keen business ability, he has made rapid progress along the highway of success. Quick to recognize and utilize the opportunities that have come to him, he has made the best of his possibilities and today ranks among the most prosperous, progressive and honored citizens of Taylor county.

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#### GEORGE S. MCKINLEY.

Among those whose activities have been important factors in the material growth and prosperity of Bedford may be classed George S. McKinley, well known brick-manufacturer and ex-mayor of this city. A native of Indiana, he was born February 12, 1857, a son of John L. and Elizabeth (Schwartz) McKinley, both natives of Juniata county, Pennsylvania. The family is of Scotch-Irish descent, although represented in America for a number of years. The paternal grandfather of George S. McKinley was John McKinley, a native of



Pennsylvania, who died in Juniata county, November 25, 1841, when still comparatively young. His wife also passed away in that county. They were parents of six children. Nothing is known of the maternal grandfather of our subject save that he was a native of Pennsylvania and the father of nine sons and one daughter. John L. McKinley, the father of George S., was a miller by trade, and upon leaving his native county in Pennsylvania, removed with his wife westward to Indiana where he engaged in the milling business for some time when, in 1857, he located in Topeka, Kansas, where he entered a homestead claim. Here he engaged actively in agricultural pursuits for four years when he removed to Afton, Iowa, where he conducted a mill for a time. Later he went to Clarinda, Iowa, and there he followed his trade as miller for nine or ten years. In the meantime he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in that vicinity and this farm was operated by his sons, with the aid of hired help, while his energies were directed toward the management of his milling enterprise. He died in 1904 when more than seventy-five years of age, having survived his wife for eight years, her death occurring in 1896 when she was about sixty-two years old. They were both members of the Methodist church, and in their family were six children, two of whom died in infancy. Those now living are: George S., of this review; Margaret A., the wife of J. F. Pearson of Pitkin, Colorado; William F., also of Pitkin; and John A., of Cripple Creek, Colorado.

The boyhood days of George S. McKinley, whose name introduces this record, were spent on his father's farm in Page county, Iowa, where he attended the district schools and aided his brothers in the conduct of the farm. Here he remained until twenty-two years of age, when, thinking to find broader fields of activity in other lines of business, he took the overland route to the Rocky Mountains and there engaged in gold mining for about fourteen years. In 1893, however, he returned to Iowa and resided near Clarinda until 1897, in which year he came to Bedford and purchased the brickyard of H. U. Greenlee. Here he has continued to manufacture brick and as the years have come and gone, his business has steadily increased until it has reached very gratifying proportions, the output of the enterprise averaging about six hundred thousand brick annually. As he has prospered he has invested to some extent in real estate, and he now owns a fine home in Bedford, a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Lane county, Kansas, and a brick cottage and thirteen acres of land within the corporation limits of Bedford, while the success to which he has attained ranks him among the prosperous and influential citizens of this city.

On the 28th of March, 1894, Mr. McKinley was united in marriage to Miss Ella Cuning, a daughter of William J. and Elizabeth (Good) Cuning, and they have four children: Ralph Edwin, Jesse Harlan, Harry and Charles H., the last-named having died in infancy. Mrs. McKinley was born in Taylor county, Iowa, while her mother was a native of Ohio. Her father, a soldier of the Civil war, was one of the early settlers in Iowa. He lived in Page county, Iowa, until his marriage, when he removed to Taylor county and later to McPherson county, Kansas, where he resided for twelve years. Upon returning to Iowa he located in Page county, making his home there until 1900, since which time he has lived in Bedford. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, eight of whom are now living, namely: Ira B.; Ella Frances, the wife of George S. McKinley;



Harry; Alretta, the wife of R. F. Miller of St. Louis, Missouri; Maggie, the wife of Joseph Meredith of Bedford; William W. of Taylor county; Grace Elizabeth; and Myrtle. William J. Cuning was one of eight children born to Ira and Catherine Cuning, the others being: Elizabeth, the wife of Allen Long; Melissa, the wife of Christopher Claytor; Mary, who wedded Jesse Wickett; Josephine, the wife of Moses Turner; Sarah, who died when a young lady; Amos; and Wilson. The father died in middle life, while his wife survived him, living to a ripe old age. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. McKinley was Noah Good, a farmer and early settler in Iowa, who later removed to Kansas. He and his wife both lived beyond the Psalmist's allotted span of life, his death occurring when he was eighty-four years of age, while she died when eighty-two years old. They had a large family, four of whom are yet living: Maggie, the wife of Benjamin Bare; Elizabeth, the mother of Mrs. McKinley; Fannie, who wedded Daniel Kilmer; and Joseph Good.

Mr. and Mrs. McKinley are both members of the Christian church, in which Mr. McKinley is serving as an elder. In his fraternal relations he is associated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while politically he gives his allegiance to the republican party. He served as councilman for four years, and that his efforts received the endorsement of his party and the community at large is indicated in the fact that he was honored with election to the highest office within the gift of his fellow citizens, and for four years served as mayor of Bedford. In his business he is straightforward and reliable, his success coming through legitimate business channels, and he enjoys and richly merits in the highest degree the confidence and respect of the entire community.

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### J. E. CAMERON.

J. E. Cameron, a well known and prosperous agriculturist of Grant township, owning a valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 5, is now capably discharging the duties devolving upon him in the position of township trustee. He was born near Monmouth, Warren county, Illinois, on the 24th of April, 1860, his parents being John and Phebe P. (Higgins) Cameron, the former a native of the north of Ireland and the latter of Pennsylvania. In early manhood the father crossed the Atlantic to the United States and afterward loyally defended the interests of his adopted country as a soldier in the Mexican war. He was first employed as a clerk in a store at Philadelphia, and subsequently removed to Warren county, Illinois, where he developed a farm and reared his family. Later he disposed of the property and came to Taylor county, Iowa, where he made his home with a son until called to his final rest about 1891. His wife, surviving him for a number of years, passed away in 1904.

J. E. Cameron was reared on the home farm in Warren county and obtained his education in the common schools. He remained under the parental roof until he had attained the age of twenty-one years, when he removed westward to Page county, Iowa, there operating a farm for one year. The year 1882 witnessed his arrival in Taylor county, where he was actively engaged in the cultivation of a



rented farm for some time. Subsequently he purchased the place of one hundred and sixty acres on section 5, Grant township, on which he now resides, giving his attention to its cultivation and further improvement. Later he bought an eighty-acre tract adjoining, so that his farm now embraces two hundred and forty acres of well improved and productive land. In addition to his work as an agriculturist he also devotes some attention to the raising and feeding of stock, fattening from one to two carloads of cattle and hogs annually. Owing to his well directed labor and excellent management, he has met with a gratifying measure of success in both branches of his business and is well entitled to a foremost place among the prosperous and representative citizens of the community. On his farm he has erected a substantial two-story residence, a large round barn (sixty-four feet in diameter) for hay, grain and stock, likewise a machine shed, buggy house, hay barracks, etc. He has also set out fruit trees and altogether has a most attractive and highly improved farming property, which in its neat and thrifty appearance indicates the supervision of a practical and progressive owner.

On the 4th of March, 1889, in Adams county, Iowa, Mr. Cameron was united in marriage to Miss Maggie Haley, who was born and reared in this state. She was well educated and prior to her marriage taught school in both Adams and Taylor counties. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Cameron have been born two children, George R. and May, both of whom are still under the parental roof.

Mr. Cameron gives his political allegiance to the men and measures of the republican party and has served in the position of road supervisor and also as a school director. In 1908 he was elected a member of the board to trustees of Grant township and is now discharging the duties devolving upon him in that connection in a highly satisfactory manner. The period of his residence in this county now covers more than a quarter of a century, and upright character and sterling worth have gained him a favorable place in the regard of many friends.

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#### DANIEL LEONARD.

Few men of Taylor county have endured greater hardships in the early settlement of this part of the state or have borne their experiences with greater courage and derived from them a larger share of the prosperity of the world and the gifts of the spirit than has Daniel Leonard, who for more than a half a century has farmed in what is now Holt township. The memories of the day on which he arrived here and of the struggles and discouragements of the first few years are still vivid, and sometimes, as he looks back over the past he wonders not so much how he surmounted them, but how his loyal wife, gently born and reared amid luxury, had the courage to brave conditions to which he all unwillingly had to submit her. He was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, in June, 1830.

His father, William Leonard, was a farmer throughout his life and five years before his death moved to Ohio, where he passed away at the advanced age of eighty. His mother, who had been Miss Mary Van Nort before her marriage,







DANIEL LEONARD



MRS. DANIEL LEONARD





was also a native of Pennsylvania and lived to be sixty years of age. The family of Leonard was of English descent and Daniel can remember that his grandparents frequently spoke of the "log book," from which he infers that his ancestors were sea-faring people, though he was too young to find out at that time. However that may be they were able to transmit to their descendant strong qualities of character which have been the making of him.

About three miles from the birthplace of James G. Blaine, Daniel Leonard opened his eyes upon the world and there grew to maturity. His parents were very poor people and he was able to acquire but a limited education, though he was early initiated into the realm of toil. At the age of twenty-two he left his home and started in life for himself. He went first to Delaware county, Ohio, where he remained two years and was married, and then moved to Fulton county, Illinois, where he lived for about nine months. In 1856, with a team of horses and all their household possessions loaded upon a wagon, he and his wife started on their journey across the country to Iowa. On the 25th of September, stopped at the place where his home has been ever since and where he preempted one hundred and sixty acres of government land. No shelter of any kind was to be seen, so they took off the bows and the cover from the wagon, fastening them to the ground so that they would not blow away, for a storm seemed to be rising, and then inverted the wagon box on the ground. Under this the wife crawled, and after handing her a few clothes Mr. Leonard crawled under himself. During the night the threatened storm arrived and although the rain poured down harder than he had ever known it to do before or has seen it since they were as dry and cozy under their improvised shelter as if they were provided with more comforts. Mr. Leonard had in his pockets only thirty-seven dollars and thirty-seven cents, but with that rare foresight which has distinguished him in his acquisition of land since, he traded his team for ninety acres. For four years he managed to do without any horses, although he bought a couple of calves which he broke into work. They were well broken, too, as one incident will show. In the early morning Mr. Leonard would take them to the timber, fell a tree, trim it, put the butt and larger limbs together, fasten a chain about them, and then hitch the young oxen to the whole. Forthwith they would "mozey" to the cabin, where Mrs. Leonard would "untoggle" the chain, turn them around and start them on the road to the woods which they would reach by themselves. On the next trip Mr. Leonard would accompany them, as he went to his dinner, and in the afternoon would bring up the third load. They were also of value in the plowing when they were fastened with a yoke eight feet long, and with them he was able to plant his corn. The animals grew to be oxen of mammoth size and when he disposed of them they brought a price of two hundred and seventy-five dollars.

From the trees he felled Mr. Leonard built a cabin sixteen feet square, and as the logs were short in this part of the state he had to splice them to make the cabin large enough. In that rude home he and his wife lived for a number of years, until he erected his present residence, the lumber for which he hauled from St. Joseph, Missouri. But even when their cabin was built their hardships were not lightened very much, and many a time Mr. Leonard said he wept at the thought of the severity of the life to which he brought his wife so tenderly



reared in her girlhood and now bearing the struggle of a pioneersman's wife cheerfully, without complaint. On one occasion he came to the shanty from the fields and found her clad in her nightdress, washing the only outside garments she had. She was using a brass kettle given her by her mother the only utensil among their few possessions large enough for the purpose. Mr. Leonard returned to the fields, sat down in the furrow and cried, heart sick enough to commit suicide. But he thought to himself, "Leonard, you won't be such a coward. Get up, pull yourself together and get out of this condition." It was a long time, however, before ready money found a place in his pocket. On one occasion he wrote a letter to his people in Ohio, but could not send it for lack of the price of postage, which in those days would have been fifteen cents. Nor could that amount be found in Taylor county. At different seasons of the year hogs were gathered together at some place and driven to Ottumwa to be sold. One time Mr. Leonard had twelve to dispose of, but they weighed three hundred pounds and were too heavy to drive. Accordingly he butchered them himself and sold the hams in Bedford for two and a half cents a pound but could not sell the shoulders at any price. So he left two with a blacksmith and said he would take their value out in work, later receiving for them a pair of hinges, which anywhere today could be procured for a quarter.

That these conditions have passed and that Mr. Leonard is in the enjoyment of a handsome income are due not only to his capacity for work and his determination to get ahead, but equally to the native sagacity which enabled him to discern the increase in the value of land, for besides the location he chose for his own home whenever he saw opportunity he bought land until at one time he held over a thousand acres, of which he gave generously to each of six sons, whom he assisted in improving their farms and in stocking them. His own farm is situated on an elevation, from which, before the trees were so thick he could look southwest into Missouri, west into Page county, northwest into Montgomery county, north into Adams county, northeast into Union county, east into Ringgold county, and southeast and south over Taylor county, obtaining a beautiful view in whatever direction he gazed. In addition to his purely agricultural interests, for more than fifty years Mr. Leonard has given especial attention to the breeding of sheep, and with his sons under the firm name of Daniel Leonard & Sons, became the pioneer importers of Shropshire sheep, and they are now noted all over the southwest for the quality of their animals. Farm work and the air from his fields are his life, as he learned when at one time he retired to Corning. It was not for long, however, as he was not made for a life of comfort, and he came back to the farm, determined not to relinquish its cares until the last moment.

In 1853, Mr. Leonard married Miss Jane Heath, who was born in Washington county, Ohio, in 1833, and for fifty-six years she was his companion. With the courage that some loving women possess she never faltered before the difficult life to which her husband brought her, but without complaint assumed her duties. Her example of hard work and her cheerfulness were the encouragement for many, while her virtues and the Christian spirit which prompted her many acts of kindness made her well beloved by all, but especially by her own family. Nine children were born to them: Mary, who died at the age of eight-

een months; William, who is living in Grove township; Guy, a resident of Holt township; Charles, who is at home; Arthur, Smith and J. W., who are living in Holt township; Luzanne, who died at the age of fourteen years; and Harry, who was killed when but fourteen years old. Mrs. Leonard was taken from this world June 23, 1909, but her memory is still a strong factor for good, though she was never a member of any church.

In the early days Mr. Leonard had helped organize a Methodist church in the neighborhood, of which he became a member and a class leader. There were but five professing Christians in north Taylor county then, and his descriptions of the first meetinghouse contrasts strangely with the edifices prepared for worship today. He says: "It was a log building, one end out for the chimney, the other end for the door, the sides out for the windows. Split linn tree logs on pegs formed the seats." For fourteen years he regularly attended the services at that church, but his ideas gradually broadened and today he would be considered liberal, subscribing to no creed. His rule of life has always been, "Do as I would be done by," and he says repeatedly, "That if people would follow the Golden Rule, they would need no other religion." It has profited him well in a worldly way and three years ago he was able to take a trip to California and the Pacific Slope, on which his wife accompanied him.

Politically Mr. Leonard is a republican, attending and participating in the first convention held in Taylor county. Indeed, he has always wielded a wide influence in shaping the public opinion of this section of the state and has been active in the local affairs for time and again he has held township offices and has served on the board of supervisors for two terms. Having seen the county grow from its earliest days, it is but natural that he should be actuated by a large public spirit for its welfare. Times have advanced since the pioneer days, and he has been largely instrumental in bringing about the progress.

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### JOSEPH H. OSBORN.

It is a well known fact that agriculture is the basis of all prosperity; that the failure or success of crops affects in great measure all business conditions, and that no country is prosperous in marked degree that does not have rich agricultural resources at her command. Iowa, although a comparatively recent settlement, is recognized today as one of the foremost farming states of the Union, having attained leadership in the production of corn per acre, while the yield of her fields is almost equally large in other crops. Actively and successfully associated with the task of tilling the soil in Taylor county is Joseph H. Osborn, who lives on section 14, Polk township, where he is busily engaged in the cultivation of one hundred acres of the old Osborn homestead. He was born in Polk township on the 10th of November, 1870. His father, Jason H. Osborn, was a native of Erie county, Ohio, where his youthful days were passed. In early manhood he responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting as a member of Company G, Fifty-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for nearly four years. He had veteranized on the expiration of his



first term and at the close of the war was honorably discharged with a most creditable military record. He came to Iowa in 1868, settling in Taylor county and was married here to Miss Emily Baker, who was also a native of Ohio, born in Sandusky county. She came to Iowa to join a sister who was living here. Jason H. Osborn took up the occupation of farming in southwestern Iowa, becoming owner of eighty acres of land, which he carefully tilled and improved. As the years went by he became recognized as a diligent and persevering farmer and a citizen whose value to the community was widely acknowledged. He spent his last years here, passing away in March, 1905. He had served as a member of the county board of supervisors in Polk township, also filled the office of justice of the peace and occupied other local positions of honor and trust. He was ever loyal to the interests of the community and discharged his duties with a faithfulness and fidelity that none questioned. Long an exemplary representative of the Masonic lodge, he was buried with Masonic honors and his death was the occasion of deep regret to his brethren of the order as well as to his associates in other walks of life. His widow survives him and some time after his death she added to the home place twenty acres of land. Upon this farm she now resides with her son, Joseph H. Osborn, who is one of three children. The brother, Jason W. Osborn, is a carpenter by trade and now resides in Sheridan, Wyoming. His sister, Mary Osborn, is the present county recorder of Taylor county.

Joseph H. Osborn has known no other home than the farm upon which he now lives. At the usual age he was sent to the public schools of the neighborhood and he has also largely supplemented the knowledge which he thus gained by further reading, study and experience. He remained upon the old homestead until twenty-three years of age, when in 1894, he went to Ohio and there operated a farm belonging to his grandfather, Sanford G. Baker, who was a cousin of Ethan Allen, of Revolutionary fame. After five years spent in the Buckeye state, Mr. Osborn went to Reading, Pennsylvania, where he was employed in the iron and steel works for six years and later he spent one year in driving a fire team of Reading, having charge of the best equipped hose line then in the state. Returning to Iowa in September, 1905, he took charge of the old home farm and the business connected therewith and has since carried on the work of the place, which in its appearance indicates the life of unremitting diligence and energy which he is leading. Following the early spring planting and the cultivation of the crops in midsummer he gathers abundant harvests in the late autumn and for his products finds a ready sale on the market. He also raises high grade stock and is very busy with his daily duties, yet finds time to cooperate to some extent in public affairs. He served his township as constable before going to Ohio and he has been officially identified with the schools, acting at the present time as president of the school board. In 1908, he was elected assessor of the township. He is quite independent politically, supporting the candidate whom he regards as best qualified for office without considering the party affiliation. His mother is a member of the United Brethren church, to which the father also belonged. Joseph H. Osborn is a member of Plumb Lodge, No. 285, A. F. & A. M., in which he is now serving as an officer. He likewise has membership in Clay Lodge No. 584, I. O. O. F., and also in the



encampment, and is in thorough sympathy with the beneficent purposes of these organizations which recognize the brotherhood of mankind and attempt to be of service to their fellowmen.

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### THOMAS A. FERGUSON.

One by one the soldiers of the Civil war are answering to the last roll call. All honor is due to those who remain and the country should never lose sight of the fact that her greatness is based upon the sacrifices which they made during the darkest hour in her history. Among the residents of Taylor county who were numbered with the boys in blue is Thomas A. Ferguson, of Lenox, who for nearly thirty years has been associated with the business interests of the city in which he makes his home. He is a native son of Iowa, having been born in Washington county on the 23d of January, 1847. His father, John Ferguson, was a native of Tennessee and was there reared and married, the lady of his choice being Miss Jane Moore, who was also born and reared in that locality. Because of his opposition to slavery Mr. Ferguson left the south and removed to Washington county, Iowa, taking up his abode there in 1843 among the first settlers. There he entered land from the government and opened up a new farm, upon which he reared his family. He was closely associated with the pioneer development of that part of the state for about thirty years or until his death in 1871. His wife had passed away in 1867. In their family were two sons and two daughters: Samuel, residing in Washington county; Elizabeth, who is the widow of James McCahan and lives in Lenox; Mary, the wife of Andrew Ferguson of Washington, Iowa; and Thomas A., of this review.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for T. A. Ferguson in his boyhood and youth up to the age of sixteen years when, aroused by a spirit of patriotism, he enlisted in 1864 for one hundred days' service. He joined the Forty-fifth Iowa Volunteer Infantry and was assigned to Company B and then went south to Tennessee. The regiment brigaded with the Thirty-third Iowa and was engaged in guarding supply trains and in warfare with the guerillas and bushwhackers. Mr. Ferguson served until the close of the war, when he was mustered out and honorably discharged. Although so young he was a loyal and faithful soldier, never faltering in the performance of any military task assigned him.

When the country no longer needed his aid Mr. Ferguson returned to the farm and there remained until after he attained his majority. Subsequently he carried on the farm and afterward purchased the old home place, which he operated until 1879. He then sold out and removed to Ringgold county, where he rented land for a year. In 1881 he located in Lenox, where he engaged in clerking for several years, after which he established a business of his own in connection with a partner. In less than a year, however, the store was destroyed by fire, after which Mr. Ferguson again engaged in clerking for several years. Here he was appointed postmaster under President McKinley and filled the position for four years. He had previously served as deputy postmaster and had



managed the affairs of the office for two years, so that practical experience qualified him for the work that then devolved upon him. He discharged his duties in a prompt and creditable manner and on his retirement from the office was engaged for a few years in raising small fruits for the Lenox market. He owns two residence properties in the town and also has five lots near his home. His business affairs have been capably controlled and have constituted a source of substantial success which has won him classification with the men of affluence in the county.

In 1869, in Washington county, Iowa, Mr. Ferguson was united in marriage to Miss Clementine Dodds, a native of Ohio, who was reared in Iowa. The death of Mrs. Ferguson occurred in Lenox in November, 1895, and in 1897, in Jefferson, Iowa, Mr. Ferguson was again married, his second union being with Mary Neiderheiser, who was born in Ohio and came to Iowa during her girlhood days, being reared in Washington county.

In his political views Mr. Ferguson is a stalwart republican and has been called to several local offices, serving as assessor for a number of terms and also as census enumerator. He has been a delegate to various conventions of the party and his opinions carry weight in their councils. He and his wife are members of the United Presbyterian church and he belongs to the Grand Army Post in which he has served as commander for one or more terms. His wife is a member of the Relief Corps. His first wife was for years president of the Relief Corps. Mr. Ferguson is widely known in Lenox and his part of the county and at all times manifests a spirit of enterprising citizenship while the salient qualities that he has displayed in business connections have made him a man whom to know is to esteem and honor.

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#### SILAS SHELEY.

Silas Sheley is a self-made man, who owes his success entirely to his own efforts. He had no special advantages to aid him at the outset of his career and received no financial assistance but with persistent spirit he has worked his way steadily upward and is now one of the well known stock feeders and shippers of Taylor county and one of the prosperous farmers of Polk township, where he owns one hundred and ninety-two acres of rich and well cultivated land in the home place and also another farm of two hundred and thirty acres. Moreover he is one of the early settlers of the county, dating his residence here from 1865. He was born in Sullivan county, New York, May 29, 1842. His parents were Jacob E. and Nancy Sheley, also natives of Sullivan county, where the father followed farming and where both he and his wife spent their entire lives, and Silas Sheley, during the days of his boyhood and youth, remained in the Empire state. Eventually he removed to Illinois, settling in De Kalb county, where he spent two years, working there by the month as a farm hand. His life has been one of unremitting toil and diligence and as the years have gone by he has made steady progress, owing to his laudable ambition and firm purpose.



It was while a resident of De Kalb county that Mr. Sheley was united in marriage on the 23d of March, 1865, to Miss Elizabeth Young, who was born in Kane county, Illinois, but was reared in De Kalb county. For about two years the young couple remained residents of Illinois and in 1865 drove across the country to Nebraska. Not liking the district to which they went, they returned as far as Taylor county, Iowa, and Mr. Sheley here purchased and located upon land in Ross township. He first became owner of eighty acres, on which was a little house while a few acres had been broken. With characteristic energy he began to break the sod and till the fields and within a year or two was harvesting good crops from the land which was hitherto wild and undeveloped. He then bought another tract of forty acres which he farmed for several years but about 1874 he sold that property and purchased eighty acres of the farm, upon which he now resides. It was a raw tract, covered with hazel brush which he had cleared off preparatory to cultivating the fields. His first home there was a small house but subsequently he added to and remodeled the place, converting it into an attractive and comfortable residence. He also built two big barns, a granary, cribs and sheds and from time to time he purchased more land until he became the owner of one hundred and ninety-two acres in the home place. Subsequently he invested in one hundred and thirty acres in another place and has thus become one of the extensive land owners of the community, now owning four hundred and thirty acres. He is also known as one of the leading stock-raisers and feeders, making shipments from Hopkins, Missouri, which he has made his headquarters for buying stock. He also owns a residence property in Hopkins. He is an excellent judge of stock and this enables him to make judicious investments and profitable sales.

Mr. and Mrs. Sheley have become parents of seven children: M. J., a farmer of Polk township; Fred, who is engaged in the hardware business in Hopkins, Missouri; Ed, who carries on general farming in Nodaway county, Missouri; Albert L., who is filling a position in a lumberyard at Parnell, Missouri; Cora, the wife of J. O. Jackson, a resident farmer of Ross township; Kate, the wife of Ed Mendenhall, a resident farmer of Polk township; and Lillie, the wife of Ben Mendenhall, also of Polk township. In his political views Mr. Sheley is a republican although he was reared in the faith of the democratic party. His mature judgment, however, did not sanction the policy of the latter and he, therefore, cast his first presidential vote for General U. S. Grant in 1868. He has served as road supervisor and as a member of the school board but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. He has become a Master Mason and his life is in harmony with the teachings and purposes of the craft. His well spent life has made him the owner of a good home and a tract of valuable land and has cast him with the leading and successful farmers and stock raisers and shippers of this part of the state. For years he was to be found nearly every day in Hopkins, where he bought stock. In the morning he would drive to the town and there spend the entire day but of later years he has not deemed it essential to give so much time to the business and usually spent only the afternoons there. He is well known both in Nodaway county, Missouri, and Taylor county, Iowa, and he and his wife are among the best known residents of this part of the state, their home being the abode of warm-hearted and generous



hospitality which makes it a favorite resort with their many friends. Mr. Sheley deserves great credit for what he has accomplished and his record proves that success may be won by persistent, earnest and honorable effort.

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### FRANKLIN G. JOHNSON, M. D.

In the history of the medical profession of Taylor county Dr. Franklin G. Johnson deserves mention, for his thorough preparation and native talents have made him an able physician and one who is conscientious and faithful in the performance of his professional duties. Widely known throughout Taylor, Ringgold and Worth counties, his history cannot fail to interest many of the readers of this volume.

One of Iowa's native sons, Dr. Johnson was born in Mahaska county on the 23d of December, 1874, and is a son of M. F. and Emma C. (Durham) Johnson. The father, who was a native of New York, was one of the early settlers of Mahaska county, who later moved to Adams county, where he passed away in 1876. His wife, who was also born in the Empire state, survived for some time and was again married, since which time she and her second husband have both been called to their final rest.

Dr. Johnson was but two years of age when he lost his father, and he was reared to manhood in Afton, Iowa, where he attended the common schools in the acquirement of his preliminary education, passing through consecutive grades until he was graduated from the Afton high school in 1891. After his graduation he learned telegraphy, and then, deciding to make the medical profession his life work, he began reading medicine under Dr. M. B. Coltrane, of Afton. His first course of lectures was pursued at the university at Iowa City during the scholastic year 1897-98, while later he pursued a course of study at the Kansas City Medical College, graduating from the medico-chirurgical department with the class of 1901. He immediately located for practice at Gault, Grundy county, where he remained for only a few months however, and then removed to Conception, Missouri. He followed his profession there until the spring of 1904, in which year he arrived in Athelstan, where he has since continued in the active practice of medicine. During the five years of his residence in this city he has been accorded a large and steadily increasing patronage, and he has become recognized as one of the efficient and eminent physicians of his section of the state, keeping in touch with the trend of general progress in professional lines and by his own investigation and research also adding much to his knowledge and ability. He is well fitted for his chosen calling, both by natural endowment and by thorough training, and anything that serves to bring to man the key to that mystery which we call life is of deep interest to him.

It was on the 20th of September, 1899, that Dr. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Laura Burgess, a native of Union county, Iowa, where she was reared and educated. She is a daughter of Nathan Burgess, one of the old settlers of Union county, now engaged in agricultural pursuits on a farm near

Afton, Iowa. Unto this union have been born three children, namely, Nathan L., Hazel and Earl.

In politics Dr. Johnson is a stalwart supporter of the republican party. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church, in the work of which they are both deeply and helpfully interested, while fraternally he holds membership with the Masons, belonging to Blockton Lodge, A. F. & A. M. He likewise belongs to Athelstan Lodge, I. O. O. F., in which he has filled all of the chairs, and is a past grand, and served as district deputy one year. He has become a very successful practitioner, for realizing fully the obligations that devolve upon him in his professional capacity, he performs all duties with a sense of conscientious obligation and has won favorable regard by reason of his skill and his personal worth. He is widely recognized as a well known physician throughout Taylor, Ringgold and Worth counties, the consensus of public opinion according him prominence, while the profession recognizes his worth in the chosen field of his practice.

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#### JACOB J. WALTER.

Success, whether it is won in professional lines or through commercial, industrial, or agricultural activities, always results from the same causes. It is the legitimate outcome of close application and intelligently directed energy. In this manner Jacob J. Walter has won his prosperity, becoming known as a leading farmer and stock feeder of Taylor county, where he owns and cultivates three hundred and sixty acres of rich and arable land. His place, which adjoins the corporation limits of Lenox, is a well improved and valuable farm, giving evidence in its attractive appearance of the careful supervision of the owner.

Mr. Walter is a native son of Iowa and was born in Adams county, November 11, 1870. His father is Henri Walter, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work.

Jacob J. Walter was reared to manhood in Adams county, spending his youth on the home farm and in the common schools he mastered the elementary branches of learning, but he is largely a self-educated man. He remained with his father until his marriage, which important event in his life was celebrated in Adams county on the 4th of March, 1904, the lady of his choice being Miss Minnie Florence Brokaw, who was born in Monroe county, Ohio, a daughter of James S. Brokaw, now of North Dakota. After their marriage the young couple located on a farm two miles west of Lenox and there carried on general agricultural pursuits for eight years. They then removed to his father's place east of Lenox and resided there until 1907, when Mr. Walter purchased their present home. He has made many notable changes in the appearance of the place since that time, has repaired the buildings, fenced the fields and tilled the land, and in connection with general farming has successfully engaged in raising, feeding and shipping stock. He fattens about twenty carloads of cattle and hogs for the market each year, and in the year 1909 has sold over twenty carloads of his own fattening. He also buys and ships some stock and is one of the foremost dealers in live stock in this part of the county. He not only cultivates his own place,



which comprises three hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land, but also farms his father's place of four hundred acres. He is a stockholder and director in the Citizens Bank of Lenox and is a business man of keen discernment and unfaltering enterprise which has wrought his success along well defined lines of labor.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Walter have been born two sons and two daughters, Marie, Roland, Harry and Dorothy. The family are well known in Lenox and this part of the county where they have a large circle of warm friends. Mr. Walter has spent his entire life in Adams and Taylor counties and has been closely associated with their growth and development. He is now numbered among the most prosperous farmers of the latter county and is known and esteemed for the success he has achieved and for the honorable, straightforward business methods he has ever followed in the conduct of his agricultural interests.

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### E. L. BOWERS.

Since locating in Taylor county in 1899, E. L. Bowers has so directed his energies along agricultural lines that today a valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres on sections 20, 29 and 30, Marshall township, gives evidence of the success to which he has attained. He was born in Monongahelia county, West Virginia, January 16, 1855, was there reared to farm life and acquired his education in the schools of that county. He remained on the old home place until he came to Iowa. He was married in Greene county, Pennsylvania, February 25, 1877, to Miss Sarah A. Russell, who was born and reared in Greene county.

Following his marriage Mr. Bowers located on the old homestead, which he continued to operate until 1899. Believing that the west offered better opportunities to the farmer, he decided to make a change in his abode and accordingly located in Bedford, Iowa, in that year. A year later he purchased his present farm of three hundred and twenty acres, on sections 20, 29 and 30, Marshall township. After taking up his abode here, he built to and remodeled the house, erected a fine barn and granary, built fences and made many other needed improvements and the place today is lacking in none of the accessories essential to successful farming. In addition to raising wheat, corn and oats, he also fattens three carloads of cattle and one load of hogs each year for the market. While busily engaged in his private business, he also finds time for public interests and was prominent in the organization of the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, of which he is a stockholder.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Bowers was blessed with three children: William O., who assists his father on the home farm; Dora May, the wife of William Ritchie, a resident of Nebraska; and Benjamin, who died at the age of three years.

Mr. Bowers is a democrat in his political belief and endorsement but he has never desired public office. He is affiliated with the Fraternal Aid and Insurance Company, and both he and his wife are members of the Methodist church at Gravity. He is watchful of every opportunity pointing to success and feels that



E. L. BOWERS AND FAMILY





he made no mistake in coming to Taylor county, for the rich soil of this district furnishes ample scope for his energies, and he is numbered among the well-to-do and substantial citizens of Marshall township.

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### EDWARD G. STRAIGHT.

Among the prominent and representative citizens of Taylor county who are devoting their time and attention to general farming and stock raising, is Edward G. Straight, the owner and operator of two hundred and forty acres of fine land on section 23, Jackson township. A native of Taylor county, his entire life has been passed in this township, and he is therefore well known throughout the community. Born on a farm adjoining the one upon which he now resides, the date of his nativity is May 3, 1868, and he is a son of Truman and Mary Straight and a brother of H. S. Straight, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. His father, a native of New York, was born near Oswego, that state, and late in life came west, settling in Taylor county, where he purchased a farm and was engaged in cultivating, developing and improving the same until his death. He passed away in 1868, leaving his wife to rear their family of five sons and two daughters, of whom one son is now deceased.

Reared amid the scenes and environments of rural life, Edward G. Straight passed the days of his boyhood and youth on the home farm. His educational advantages were somewhat limited, as he was compelled to depend upon his own efforts for the privileges enjoyed, but his training in farm work, however, was not meager and he early learned lessons pertaining to the value of energy, industry and perseverance. He remained at home, assisting his mother in the work of the farm until he attained his majority, when he decided to enter business on his own account. Wisely choosing as a life work the occupation to which he had been reared, he purchased, in 1897, eighty acres of the farm which is now his home. It now consists of two hundred and forty acres of land situated on section 23, Jackson township, and constitutes one of the valuable and desirable properties of the township. In its midst stands a comfortable two-story house and substantial barns and outbuildings, while all modern improvements and accessories for facilitating the work of the farm have been introduced. His fields have been brought under a high state of cultivation and the entire place, well fenced with woven and barbed wire, presents a neat and attractive appearance that bespeaks thrift and progress on the part of the owner. In connection with general agricultural pursuits he has devoted much time to the raising and feeding of stock, fattening a carload of hogs annually. This branch of his business is proving a very gratifying source of profit to him. He has also found opportunity to engage in other interests and he is now one of the stockholders in the Sheridan Bank, his connection therewith furnishing an additional source of revenue.

In his political relations Mr. Straight has given his support to the republican party since it was conferred upon him the right of franchise, but he has never sought public office as a reward for party fealty, preferring to de-



vote his undivided time and energies to his personal interests. He is well known and highly esteemed in Bedford and throughout Taylor county, where his entire life has been passed, and during this period has not only witnessed the development of large tracts of prairie land into rich fields but has also taken his full share in the work of cultivation and improvement, and today he stands among the prominent and representative citizens of Taylor county.

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#### ALBERT E. LAKE.

Albert E. Lake, secretary of the Bedford Creamery at Bedford, Iowa, was born in Topsfield, Massachusetts, September 28, 1850, a grandson of Enos and Annie (Gould) Lake, in whose family were three sons and three daughters, namely: Alpheus A.; Hulda, who was the wife of Miles Sweeney; Mrs. Nancy Sweeney; John B., the father of Albert E. Lake; Mehitabel, who also married a Mr. Lake; and one son who died at sea.

John B. Lake was a native of Massachusetts and for some time was connected with the business interests of Topsfield as a shoe merchant but after the outbreak of the Civil war he put aside all business and personal considerations and enlisted as a member of Company F, Twenty-third Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for ten months. He was wounded in the battle of Roanoke Island—the first engagement in which he participated—and later returned home on a furlough. He soon rejoined his regiment, however, but was taken ill and was discharged for disability. After the war he cultivated a small farm but never fully recovered from the effects of his army service, and died in Boxford, Massachusetts, in March, 1878. He was married three times, his first two wives being sisters. For his third wife he chose Amelia H. Norwood, also a native of Massachusetts and a daughter of George Norwood, who was a fisherman residing in Gloucester, Massachusetts. He also served as a soldier in the war of 1812 and died in the east at an advanced age, while his wife also died in Massachusetts at an old age. They were the parents of five children: Amelia, who became the mother of Albert E. Lake; George; Nathan; Eunice, the wife of Edward Lane; and Mrs. Adaline Tarr. Unto John B. and Amelia H. (Norwood) Lake there were born four children: Albert E.; Herbert L., who is now living in Sparks, Oklahoma; Ada W., the wife of W. A. Brock, of Rupert, Idaho; and Howard W., who died in early childhood. The death of the father occurred in Boxfield, Massachusetts, in March, 1878, while the mother survived until 1900. Both were members of the Methodist church.

Albert E. Lake spent his boyhood days in Topsfield and in Roxford, Massachusetts, and attended the Putnam Free School at Newburyport. He afterward went to Boston where he engaged in bookkeeping for five years and in 1876 he came to the west. The following year he located on a farm near Conway, where he resided for three years, after which he carried on merchandising for some years in Conway. In 1900, he arrived in Bedford, having been elected county treasurer, in which position he served for two terms, since which time he has been secretary of the Bedford Creamery. He has made steady

progress since starting out in business on his own account and his present connection is one of importance and profit.

In November, 1874, Mr. Lake was married to Miss Sarah L. Reed and unto them have been born two sons, Walter H. and Harry C. The former married Eva Carr and at the present writing is filling the position of county auditor. The younger son is attending Cornell College.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Lake are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is serving as steward. The work of the church is ably promoted by them for they are interested in its progress. Mr. Lake belongs to Bedford Lodge, No. 91, I. O. O. F., and is also connected with Bedford Encampment, No. 73. His political endorsement has always been given to the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and in the various offices which he has filled he has discharged his duties with promptness and fidelity. For two years he served as mayor of Conway and at the present writing is a member of the city council at Bedford. He is alive to the interests and vital questions of the day relative to the welfare of city and county and his cooperation with many movements for the general good as well as his business activity has made him one of the representative men of this part of the state.

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#### GEORGE REID.

Among those who in former years were identified with agricultural pursuits and whose labors had brought them the prosperity that now enables them to live retired, is numbered George Reid. He was born in Crawford county, Ohio, August 30, 1841, his parents being George and Mary Ann (Foster) Reid, both of whom were natives of Ireland. The grandfather, Robert Reid, likewise born on the Emerald Isle, crossed the Atlantic to America and spent his last days in Ohio, where he died at the venerable age of eighty-seven years. He had devoted his entire active life to the occupation of farming. His wife, Mrs. Margaret Reid, had passed middle life when called to her final rest. Their only child was George Reid, father of our subject. The maternal grandparent, Robert Foster, was likewise born in Ireland and on coming to America about 1812, settled in Crawford county, Ohio, where he followed farming until he passed away when in middle life. His wife, Mrs. Margaret Foster, died in Kansas City, Missouri, at an advanced age. They were the parents of fifteen children.

It was about the year 1812 that George Reid, Sr., arrived in America, settling in Virginia but soon afterward removing to Ohio. He came in possession of land entered by his father, Robert Reid, in Crawford county and with characteristic energy began its cultivation and improvement, converting the wild tract into a productive farm. He made his home in that county until his death which occurred in 1888 when he was seventy-two years of age. His wife died there about 1860. Both were members of the Methodist church and their many excellent traits of character won for them the friendship and regard of those with whom they were associated. Their family numbered six children:



Robert, now deceased; William, living in Bucyrus, Ohio; George; Hugh; Rachel and James H., all of whom have passed away.

George Reid, whose name introduces this review, was reared upon his father's farm, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. His education was acquired in the district schools, in the public schools of Bucyrus, Ohio, and also in the normal school. He was yet pursuing his studies when in response to the country's call for aid he enlisted as a member of Company B, One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for two years and nine months, doing duty as a private. He was engaged on guard duty, guarding prisoners on Johnson's island. After the war he returned to Bucyrus and assisted his brother William in the grain business until he came to Iowa, when he took up his abode on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Clayton township, Taylor county. Later he extended the boundaries of his place by the additional purchase of eighty acres and on that farm he reared his family, there living for forty-one years. His agricultural interests were carefully conducted, for he practiced the rotation of crops, paid careful attention to the condition of the soil and in his farm work met with success which results from untiring diligence and progressive methods. On leaving the farm he removed to Bedford, where he purchased a good home but he still owns two hundred acres of valuable land which is finely improved and from which he derives a substantial income.

On the 14th of March, 1867, Mr. Reid was united in marriage to Miss Sarah E. Gardner, a daughter of Nathan G. and Elizabeth Mary (Bigelow) Gardner. Mrs. Reid was born in Stephentown, Rensselaer county, New York, and her parents were also natives of the Empire state. They had four children, of whom Mrs. Reid was the eldest, the others being: Charlotte, the wife of Reuben P. Willard, of Dillon, Montana; James R., deceased; and Esther, the wife of Samuel Young, of Woodstock, Minnesota. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Reid was James R. Gardner, a native of Rhode Island and of Irish descent. He made farming his life work and died in the state of New York well advanced in years. His wife, Mrs. Roxcena (Hawley) Gardner, was over eighty years of age at the time of her demise. They were the parents of two sons and two daughters: Lavica, Sarah, Nathan Green and Hawley Gardner. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Reid was Gale Bigelow, a native of France, who came to America, and entered three hundred acres of land in Columbia county, New York, where he died in middle life. His wife, Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth (Pratt) Bigelow, was more than seventy years of age at the time of her demise. They had twelve children all now deceased: Ralph, an architect, who died when about one hundred years of age; Rachel, who died at the age of ninety-six; Charlotte; Sarah; Esther; Luvina; Allen; Joseph; Elizabeth; Obediah; and two who died in infancy.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Reid has been blessed with eight children: Nathan George, who died in infancy; Roxcena M., at home; Le Roy Emerson, who was killed by a gasoline engine when thirty-two years of age; Anna, who died when but six months old; Albert Gale, in Idaho; Frank Alvin and Alice, both at home; and one who died in infancy. They also have an adopted daughter, Mary.



Mr. and Mrs. Reid are devoted members of the Methodist church and he is serving as one of the church trustees. He also belongs to Sedgwick Post, G. A. R., and greatly enjoys its camp fires where are recalled the long hard marches of the campaigns that were features of the Civil war and led to the establishment of the Union upon a firmer basis than ever before. Politically Mr. Reid has always been a republican and has been called to a number of local offices, the duties of which he discharged with promptness and fidelity. He has been road supervisor and township and school trustee. He is now comfortably situated in life as the result of his energy, perseverance and capably directed efforts and is now one of the most respected citizens of Bedford.

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D. C. HUGHES.

D. C. Hughes, living on section 4, Platte township, is one of the active and prosperous farmers of Taylor county, and is numbered among the veterans of the Civil war, having espoused the cause of the Union during the dark days of the strife between the north and the south. In the years of his residence here he has come to be widely respected for his sterling worth and his business enterprise. He now owns and occupies a neat and well-improved place on the north line of Taylor county adjoining Adams county, having here lived since the 24th of February, 1874.

Mr. Hughes was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, June 1, 1835. His father, John Hughes, was also a native of that county and there wedded Nancy Crago, who was likewise born in the Keystone State. The father was a cooper by trade, following that pursuit throughout his active life. He reared his family in Pennsylvania and died there about 1847. His wife survived him and joined her son in Iowa, spending her last days in this state. Only two of their seven children yet survive, the brother of our subject being Thomas Hughes, also a resident farmer of Taylor county.

D. C. Hughes spent his youthful days in his native state and was but a young lad at the time of his father's death in 1847. Starting out in life for himself, he was employed in a woolen factory for about eleven years and early developed the spirit of self-reliance and energy, which have constituted the safe and strong foundation upon which he has builded his later success. At the time of the Civil war he put aside business and personal considerations, enlisting on the 1st of May, 1861, as a member of the Thirty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He was assigned to Company D and joined the forces under General McClellan and was afterward under commands of Generals Meade and Grant in the army of the Potomac. Later he was under fire in the Peninsular campaign, continuing for seven days, and was also in the battles of Mechanicsburg, Gaines Mill, Peach Orchard, Malvern Hill, the second battle of Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, the Wilderness campaign and was with Grant in the military movements that led up to the battles of Spottsylvania Courthouse. Becoming ill he was in the hospital for three months and on the 27th of May, 1864, was honorably discharged at Pittsburg, one month after the expiration of his term of



enlistment. His military service was varied and he saw arduous duty on many of the hotly contested battlefields. After being mustered out he returned home and worked in the woolen mills until the time of his marriage.

It was on the 24th of February, 1869, in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, that Mr. Hughes was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary J. Sharpnack, who was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, but was reared in Fayette county. After their marriage they removed westward to Knox county, Illinois, where Mr. Hughes rented a farm, which he cultivated for four years. He then came to Iowa, settling in Taylor county, where he cultivated rented land for several years and then purchased the place where he now resides. This he broke and improved, placing the fields under a high state of cultivation. He has erected a good, neat residence here, together with substantial barns and cribs with wagon and buggy shed and granary. He has also set out a good orchard and now has a valuable property, although there was not a stick nor an improvement on the place when the land came into his possession. In connection with his farming he raises and feeds stock, and both branches of his business are proving profitable.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hughes has been born one son, John N., who occupies the position of assistant cashier in the Citizens Bank of Lenox. He wedded Ada Telly of Adams county, Iowa, and they have two children, David T. and Burtson Evelyn. Their father is a well-educated man, formerly a teacher, and is recognized as one of the prominent representatives of business life in Lenox.

In his political views, Mr. Hughes is a republican and has supported the party since casting his first presidential ballot for John C. Fremont in 1856, giving his allegiance to every presidential candidate in the intervening years. He has never sought nor desired office but has been honored with official preferment in the Grand Army post at Lenox, in which he has served as senior vice commander. He has been a resident of the county for thirty-five years and has witnessed its transformation as the land has been claimed and cultivated and towns built. As a soldier of the Civil war the country owes to him a debt of gratitude which can never be repaid and in times of peace he has been equally loyal in citizenship, putting forth earnest and effective effort in behalf of public progress as well as for the advancement of his private business interests.

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#### LEVI P. WILLITS.

Great changes have occurred in this section of the state since Levi P. Willits took up his home in the district. He has lived in Adam and Taylor counties for thirty-eight years and was formerly the owner of a farm of two hundred and forty acres within three miles of Lenox. He took up his abode in Adams county in October, 1871, and in Taylor county in 1893, and throughout the years has carried on general agricultural pursuits.

Mr. Willits was born in Wayne county, Indiana, on the 12th of November, 1841. His father, James Monroe Willits, was a native of the same county and after arriving at years of maturity was married there to Miss Sarah Ann Myers, also born in that locality. On removing to Illinois they settled in Mercer county,



where Mr. Willits opened up a new farm. In connection with the tilling of the soil he imported and dealt in Norman horses and became one of the prominent stock dealers and horsemen of that section of the state. He continued to reside there until his death, which occurred in 1907, when he had reached the venerable age of eighty-seven years. His wife had passed away some years previous. They were the parents of three sons and two daughters, all of whom are yet living. After the death of his first wife the father married again and there are five children of the second marriage.

Levi P. Willits was reared to manhood on the home farm in Mercer county and assisted his father in the work of the farm from the time of early spring planting until crops were harvested in the late autumn. He was twenty-two years of age when on the 21st of December, 1863, he joined Company I, of the Seventeenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and went south with the Western Army. He was first under fire in different skirmishes up and down the Mississippi River, doing guard and scouting duty and fighting bushwhackers. He participated in the battle of Fort Blakely and continued at the front after the close of the war, being on military duty in Texas for a time. He was mustered out at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and was there honorably discharged May 15, 1866. He never lost time from sickness or other cause, but stacked arms every night with his company and he still has his army musket and side arms, which are cherished possessions and mementos of his military experience.

When the war was over Mr. Willits returned to Mercer county, Illinois, where he was employed as a farm hand by the month for several years, and was married there March 16, 1871, to Miss Maria Shields, who was born and reared in that county and was a daughter of William Shields, a prominent farmer and stockraiser of Mercer county. He was born in Wayne county, Indiana, but when a young man of twenty-one years went to Illinois, becoming one of the pioneer settlers of Mercer county. He was married there to Lucy Wilson, who was born and reared in Illinois, and there they reared their family, the death of Mr. Shields occurring in 1892, while his wife passed away only a few months before.

Soon after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Willits removed to Iowa, reaching Lenox in October, 1871. About the time of the great fire in Chicago a fire swept over the prairie here, burning the hay and everything. Mr. Willits purchased land in Grant township, Adams county, becoming owner of one hundred and twenty acres, on which he turned the first furrows and made the first improvements. Subsequently he purchased one hundred and twenty acres adjoining. He later built a good house, barns and cribs, also a house for his machinery, hay barracks and other equipments which are accessories of a model farm. He enclosed his place with wire fencing and divided it into fields of convenient size. In connection with general farming he raised and fed cattle and hogs, which he fattened for market. There he carried on general agricultural pursuits until 1893, when he sold that property and bought a farm in Platte township, Taylor county, pleasantly and conveniently located within a mile of Lenox. It comprised one hundred and sixty acres, but the farm and the buildings were both run down. He at once began the work of improvement, built a commodious residence, thirty-two by thirty-two feet and two stories in height, a cattle barn and other necessary



outbuildings, fenced the fields and today has one of the neatest and best-improved places in the township. In fact, it is a model farm, on which he continuously resided until 1903, when he rented the place and removed to Lenox. Here he now has a nice home. He continued to own this farm until 1907 and he is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land in western Canada, near North Dakota.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Willits have been born six children: Victor, who is overseer for a mining company at Clifton, Arizona; Britt L., a farmer living north of Prescott; Dott, the wife of Frank McCoy, of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Glen, living in Charles City, Iowa, where for the past two years he has been principal of the Cromwell Schools and is also engaged in the newspaper business, having formerly conducted a paper in Lenox; Blaine, now a traveling salesman for the Swift Packing Company; and Burr, a student in the Lenox high school. All of the children have been provided with liberal educational advantages.

Politically Mr. Willits is a republican, supporting the party since casting his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln while in the service of his country. He has never sought nor desired office, however. The family attend and support the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mrs. Willits and the children are members. Mr. Willits belongs to the Grand Army post at Lenox, of which he served as commander for one term and has also acted as adjutant and in other official positions. At the time of his arrival in Iowa Lenox was a cross-road village with but few houses, and this entire portion of the state was largely an unimproved district. He has always stood for progress and development in every line tending to better conditions here, and in all matters of citizenship has been as true and loyal to his country in days of peace as when he followed the old flag upon southern battlefields.

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#### ELMER DERRICKSON.

Elmer Derrickson is one of the prosperous and progressive farmers of Ross township, who gives his time and attention in a most practical manner to the further development and improvement of a farm of forty acres, which he owns, and also operates a rented farm of one hundred and fifty acres on section 9. His record has been such that Taylor county is proud to number him among her native sons. His birth occurred within her borders January 29, 1870, his parents being Mr. and Mrs. K. E. Derrickson. The father, a native of Indiana, was born in Shelby county, was there reared and after arriving at man's estate wedded Miss Mary C. John, who was also born in Indiana. Mr. Derrickson followed farming in Shelby county for a number of years but, thinking that he would have still better opportunities west of the Mississippi he came to Iowa soon after the Civil war. He had served his country for four years as a soldier of the Union army, being numbered among the boys in blue of the Fifty-second Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. He made a creditable record as a soldier, never faltering in the performance of duty whether on the firing line or the lonely picket line. It was after the war that he was married and subsequently



he removed to Iowa where he opened up a new farm in Ross township. As he found opportunity and his financial condition permitted he bought more land and continued successfully to till the soil for a number of years until 1906 when he rented his farm and removed to Bedford where he is now living retired in the enjoyment of well-earned rest.

Elmer Derrickson, whose name introduces this record was reared upon the old homestead in Ross township and at the usual age was sent to the common schools, wherein he mastered the common branches of English learning and thus equipped himself for the practical duties of life. He was married in Maryville, Nodaway county, Missouri, in June, 1894, to Miss Maud E. Campbell, who was born in that county and is a daughter of G. M. Campbell, who was a veteran of the Civil war and is now living retired in Maryville. Mrs. Derrickson was reared in her native county and was carefully trained in the duties of the household so that she was well qualified to take charge of a home of her own at the time of her marriage. Four children graced this union: Pearl, Rema, Harry and Marvin.

Following his marriage Mr. Derrickson located on a farm in Ross township and began to cultivate his fields and further improve the property. He lived there for some time and then sold it, after which he bought another farm. He has owned and cultivated four different farms in Ross township and in connection with tilling the soil he raises and feeds stock, handling both hogs and cattle of high grades. He always keeps his buildings in a state of good repair and he erected the present large barn on his place. A spirit of neatness and thrift pervades the farm and everything about it is indicative of the careful supervision of an owner who is practical in his methods and progressive in his spirit.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Derrickson are members of the Christian church, belonging to Berea chapel. His political endorsement is given to the republican party at the polls but he would never consent to hold office save in connection with the schools, the cause of education finding in him a warm and stalwart champion. He has seen the county develop from pioneer conditions for he became a resident of this part of the state when it was a frontier district and has ridden all over the open prairie with no fences or habitations to impede his progress. As the years have gone by wonderful changes have occurred and he has at all times been greatly interested in the work of general development and improvement and in many ways has cooperated in the various measures for the general good.

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#### W. H. PAYTON.

Familiarly called Howard by a large number of friends throughout the community, W. H. Payton is a prosperous and progressive farmer of Clayton township who is also well known throughout Taylor county as an extensive breeder and dealer in shorthorn cattle and Percheron horses. A native of Illinois, he was born in Champaign county, February 27, 1865. He came to Taylor county, Iowa, when a lad of nine years and has since continued to make his home in Clayton township. He was educated in the common schools of the district



and during the periods of vacation assisted in the work of his father's farm, early becoming familiar with the tasks that fall to the lot of the country lad. He remained at home until he had attained his majority and then, on the 12th of October, 1887, he was united in marriage in Gay township, Taylor county, to Miss Jennie Hunter, a sister of Paul Hunter, whose sketch is given on another page of this volume. She was born and reared in Illinois and before her marriage was a school teacher.

Mr. and Mrs. Payton began their domestic life on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Clayton township, which Mr. Payton continued to improve and develop for some time. Later he sold this place and purchased more land on section 23, this township, upon which farm he now resides. Through the industry, perseverance and well directed efforts of Mr. Payton this property is one of the well improved and valuable properties of the township. Upon it stands a large two-story house which was built by him and which is attractively furnished, while he has also erected a good barn and substantial outbuildings. He has set out a fine orchard of five acres, containing well selected fruit trees, and has a good grove of his own planting. In connection with his general farming pursuits he is extensively engaged in breeding, feeding and dealing in live stock, annually fattening a large number of hogs. For the past three years he has made a specialty of breeding and dealing in shorthorn cattle and now has on hand about thirty head of registered stock with a fine pure Scotch male at the head of the herd, which also contains several Scotch cows. He has also, for some years, been a breeder of fine horses, making a specialty of Percheron horses, and has become very well known along this line.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Payton has been blessed with two daughters, namely: Edith, who was graduated from the Bedford high school with the class of 1909; and Edna, now attending that school. The parents are members of the Baptist church, while Mrs. Payton is an active Sunday-school worker and a teacher therein. They are people of excellent traits of character, who stand high socially in the community, while their home is popular because of its spirit of genial hospitality and good cheer. Politically Mr. Payton is a republican but he has never sought nor desired public office, preferring to devote his time, thought and attention to his private affairs, which are capably managed. He is a good business man, alert and enterprising, and the gratifying degree of success which he now enjoys came to him as the result of well directed energy and unceasing labor.

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#### MRS. EMILY J. SWAIM.

Farm work makes strenuous demands upon the time and energies of those who successfully follow it but there is no more productive district in all the United States than the rich fields of Iowa. Taylor county has her full quota of progressive and representative agriculturists, in which class Mrs. Emily J. Swaim is numbered. She is living on section 20, Ross township, and has long made her home in Taylor county, dating her residence here from 1859. A native of Indiana, she was born in Park county in 1852 and is a daughter of Enoch







J. R. SWAIM



MRS. J. R. SWAIM





Beauchamp, who was also a native of Indiana, where he was reared and married, the lady of his choice being Miss Mary Remington, who was born in Ohio, but was reared in Indiana. Mr. Beauchamp followed farming in that state for a number of years or until after the birth of three of his children when in 1859 he removed to Iowa, becoming one of the first settlers of Taylor county. He then bought a farm in Ross township, whereon he lived until 1875, when he removed to another farm on section 20 and 29, the same township, continuing his residence there throughout the remainder of his life. He died in 1894, having long survived his first wife, who passed away on the 9th of August, 1871. Three of their seven children—Emily J., James and Sarah E.—were born in Indiana, while Samantha Ann, John C., Mary Alice and Laura A., now deceased, were born in Iowa. Mr. Beauchamp was again married July 4, 1874, his second union being with Mrs. S. E. Bradley, a widow, by whom he had three children: Elmer, Edelbert and Grace.

Mrs. Swaim was reared in Taylor county and was educated in the home schools. In her girlhood days she assisted in the work of the household so that she was well qualified to take charge of a home of her own at the time of her marriage. On the 30th of June, 1870, she became the wife of J. R. Swaim, a native of Park county, Indiana, where he was reared. As a young man he came to Iowa with his father, Levi Swaim, and they took up their abode in Ross township, Taylor county.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Swaim also settled on a tract of land in Ross township and he engaged in farming that place for five years, on the expiration of which period, he removed to the farm where his family now resides. He was a man of good business energy and determination and of keen foresight, who carefully conducted his farming interests and from time to time, as his financial resources increased, made further investment in land until he became the owner of nearly a thousand acres. He was one of the most active, progressive business men and prosperous farmers of the township and allowed no obstacle to brook his path which could be overcome by persistent and honorable effort. On his place, he erected a large residence and also substantial and commodious outbuildings. From time to time, he extended the boundaries of home farm until it included three hundred and forty acres. Mrs. Swaim now owns this place, while the remainder of the property of Mr. Swaim was inherited by his children.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Swaim were born eight children who yet survive: Houston, a resident of Iowa; Howard, in Idaho; Glenn and Floyd, who are carrying on the home farm for their mother; Ella, now the wife of James Bishop, living near Burlington, Iowa; Mary, a young lady at home; Cora, the wife of Roy Duncan, a resident farmer of Benton township; and Ethel, who completes the family. They also lost three sons: Daniel, Irvin and Albert, all of whom died in early childhood.

The death of the husband and father occurred in 1896 and was the occasion of deep and widespread regret, not only to his immediate family, but to the entire community for his worth as a man and citizen were widely acknowledged. He was a Master Mason of Siam Lodge and was buried with Masonic honors. He had a wide acquaintance throughout this part of the state and was much



esteemed in the community for he was reliable in business, progressive in citizenship, faithful in friendship and devoted to the welfare of his wife and children. Mrs. Swaim is a member of the Christian church of Bedford and is a most estimable lady. She successfully manages her business affairs and is well known for her executive ability and her commendable spirit of enterprise.

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#### WILLIAM C. BURNHAM.

Industry, energy, thrift and economy are the characteristic elements in the life of William C. Burnham, who is numbered among the successful agriculturists of Mason township, where he owns and operates a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He was born in the state of New York on the 8th of February, 1851, and is a son of Lyman and Eliza (Near) Burnham. The paternal grandfather, Ezra Burnham, was born across the waters and was the father of the following children: Lyman, Ezra, William, Andrew, Jane and Maria. Lyman Burnham, the father of our subject, was born in New Hampshire and came west at an early day, settling first in Illinois and later in Taylor county, Iowa. He married Miss Eliza Near, who was one of a family of four children born unto her parents, the others being: Jane, John and Margaret.

Leaving his native state at an early age, William C. Burnham acquired his education in the schools of Illinois and Iowa, and continued a student therein until the year 1871. In the meantime, when not engaged with his text-books, he assisted his father in the work of the home farm, early becoming familiar with the duties that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. After leaving school he remained under the parental roof until 1875, continuing to give his father the benefit of his assistance, and during this period the experience which he gained concerning the best methods of tilling the soil was both thorough and comprehensive, proving of value to him in later years. In the year mentioned, being desirous of entering business life on his own account, he purchased a tract of eighty acres which now forms a part of his present farm, and later added an adjoining forty-acre tract, his farm today consisting of one hundred and twenty acres on section 17. When the place came into his possession it was little more than raw prairie land, where not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made. With characteristic energy, however, he set about breaking the sod and converting the land into productive fields, and as the years have come and gone his labors have received their just reward in the rich crops which have annually been harvested. In the midst of his farm he has erected a beautiful residence, modern in all of its appointments, while substantial barns and out-buildings also stand as monuments to his industry and thrift. He has made a close study of agriculture, is methodical, systematic and progressive in his business, so that he is today numbered among the successful farmers of his section of the county.

In February, 1875, in Taylor county, Mr. Burnham was united in marriage to Miss Malinda Hutchinson, a native of Licking county, Ohio, and a daughter of John and Malinda (Brown) Hutchinson. The Brown family came to Iowa

from Pennsylvania, while the Hutchinsons were of English lineage, representatives of the name having come to the United States in 1862. John Hutchinson, the father of Mrs. Burnham, was one of the earliest settlers of Taylor county and was a well-known and prominent figure in the affairs of the community in which he resided. With the passing of the years three children have come to bless the home of Mr. and Mrs. Burnham, namely: Grace, the wife of Elmer Daugherty of Page county; Nora, who has graduated from the public schools; and Goldie, still attending school. Mr. Burnham and his wife are members of the Methodist church at New Market, and are people of excellent traits of character, who occupy an enviable place in the community. Mr. Burnham gives his political allegiance to the republican party, and has been treasurer of the school board. Otherwise, however, he has never sought nor desired office, preferring to direct his energies to the conduct of his personal affairs. His enterprising and progressive spirit has been a potent element in the success which he now enjoys, while by constant exertion, associated with good judgment, he has gained a place among the substantial citizens of Taylor county, and commands the respect and confidence of all with whom he is brought in contact.

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#### HENRY K. RUSSELL.

Henry K. Russell lives upon a farm on section 22, Jackson township. He carries on farming on an extensive scale, owning five hundred and twenty acres in the home place, which in its neat and thrifty appearance is indicative of the careful supervision of Mr. Russell, whose labors and ideas are at once practical and progressive. It was upon the farm where he now makes his home that the birth of Mr. Russell occurred, his natal day being January 20, 1878. His father, William H. Russell, was a native of Ireland, born in the northern part of the Emerald Isle. There he continued until he reached the age of fifteen years, when the opportunities of the new world attracted him and he crossed the Atlantic to the United States, spending several years in New York city. Subsequently he went to Wisconsin, where he secured employment as a farm hand and later he came to Taylor county, Iowa. Here he again worked at farm labor until his earnings were sufficient to enable him to purchase one hundred and twenty acres, which he secured before his marriage. He completed his arrangements for having a home of his own by wooing and winning Miss Elizabeth Kemery, a native of Lee county, Iowa. The young couple took up their domestic life upon the farm which he had previously purchased and which he had occupied alone up to the time of his marriage. With characteristic energy he began developing the place, transforming the wild prairie into rich fields. Year by year he planted his seed and in course of time harvested his crops and his labors constituted a forceful element in the general development of his part of the county. As he prospered in his undertakings he bought more land from time to time until he owned five hundred and sixty acres. He built good buildings upon his place that ample shelter might be afforded for grain and stock. He put altogether five sets of farm buildings on his land and always kept these in a state of good



repair. He used the latest improved farm machinery to facilitate the work of the fields and everything about the farm indicated the supervision of an owner whose progressive spirit placed him in the foremost ranks among the representatives of agricultural life in this part of the county. Upon his farm Mr. Russell spent his last years, passing away in 1904. His widow still survives him. There were four children in the family, the daughters, Anna, Iowa and Bertha, all remaining at home with their mother.

Henry K. Russell, whose name introduces this record, was reared on the old homestead farm and pursued his education in the district schools. Being an only son, he assisted his father more and more largely in the work of the fields and for some time prior to his father's death took charge of the home farm and carried it on. He has now rented much of the land but still cultivates a portion of it and he also raises and feeds stock. His business affairs are capably managed and intelligently directed and he is regarded as one of the enterprising business men in the community, who readily masters the intricate problems which continually arise in connection with the control and improvement of important farming interests.

In his political views Mr. Russell is a republican, well informed on the questions and issues of the day but without desire for office. He has been a member of the school board and school treasurer but otherwise has never consented to serve in positions of public trust. His father was also school treasurer for several years and was a delegate to several county conventions. Mr. Russell is a member of Sheridan Lodge, I. O. O. F. and in his life is loyal to the teachings of the order. A young man of good business ability and of strict integrity and worth, he has been a resident of the county throughout his entire life and is well known in Bedford and this section of the state.

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#### PAUL HUNTER.

No history of Taylor county would be complete without mention of Paul Hunter who for many years has been a well-known figure in public circles and has, moreover, been identified with the agricultural interests of Taylor county for several years. He is also numbered among the early settlers of this district, dating his residence here since 1872. Born in Christian county, Illinois, January 14, 1867, he is a son of John and Mary (Weir) Hunter, natives of England and Sangamon county, Illinois, respectively. The former was reared in his native country and later came to the new world, locating in Sangamon county, Illinois, where he was married. He farmed in Clinton county for some years and in 1872 removed to Iowa, settling in Taylor county, where he purchased land in Gay township, his farm consisting of three hundred and twenty acres. Here he reared his family and spent the rest of his life, both he and his wife passing away upon this farm.

Paul Hunter, with two brothers and three sisters, still survive out of a family of four sons and four daughters born unto Mr. and Mrs. John Hunter. He grew to manhood on his father's farm in Gay township and acquired his early

education in the common schools. He later supplemented this training by a course of study in the Shenandoah Normal College, and during the latter part of his course there taught during the fall and winter terms. After his graduation from the normal college he was engaged in teaching in Taylor county for seven years. On the 13th of September, 1891, at Bedford, he was united in marriage to Miss Perthena Ann Payton, a native of Illinois who was reared and educated in Taylor county.

Mr. and Mrs. Hunter commenced their domestic life on the Payton farm in Ross township, where they resided for one year, and then removed to another farm in that township, making their home thereupon until 1896, in which year Mr. Hunter was elected clerk of Taylor county. He removed to Bedford and took up the duties of that office in January, 1897. He served for one term and was then reelected for a second term, remaining in office for four years. At the expiration of that period he returned to Ross township and purchased the farm upon which he had previously resided. He devoted his energies toward the further improvement of this place, which consisted of one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land, and continued to make it his place of residence until the fall of 1906, when he sold the property and came to Bedford. Here he was elected a member of the county board of supervisors and served for one term. In 1908 he was reelected and is serving in that capacity at the present time. In the latter year he purchased his present farm on section 20, Clayton township, and has since confined his attention to general agricultural pursuits. He also engages to some extent in stock raising and has been most successful in his undertaking. He possesses good business ability, is progressive and up-to-date in his methods and is recognized as one of the prosperous and representative farmers of this township.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Hunter has been blessed with two daughters: Eula May, a student in the high school at Bedford; and Opal Marie, also attending that institution, in the same class with her sister.

Mr. Hunter is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and politically is a staunch republican. He is well known and active in the local ranks of that party which he has represented several times as delegate at various state and county conventions. He is a man of strict integrity and of genuine personal worth, and the consensus of public opinion accords him a high place among the representative citizens of Taylor county.

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#### GEORGE W. PAGE.

Thirty-six years have come and gone since George W. Page arrived in Taylor county after a residence of eight years in Warren county, this state. He has been closely associated with agricultural interests and the promoter of various other enterprises, which have been direct forces in the development and improvement of this section of the state. He has always been diligent and persevering in his business career, utilizing advantages which others have passed by heedlessly, and the course which he has pursued in his business career is one which at all times will bear the closest investigation and scrutiny. One of Ohio's native



sons, Mr. Page was born in Brown county, December 31, 1835, and there the days of his boyhood and youth were passed upon a farm in the midst of the green forests. He remained with his father until seventeen years of age and then started out in business life for himself, working as a farm hand by the day and month. In the year 1857 he removed to Livingston county, Illinois, where he worked on farms for a time, after which he rented land and so carried on general agricultural pursuits for nine years.

While in Livingston county, in 1859, Mr. Page was united in marriage to Miss Mary Jane Livingston, who was born in Licking county, Ohio. In 1865 they removed to Iowa, driving across the country with teams to Warren county, Mr. Page trading for property in Indianola. They afterward spent one winter at Hartford, Iowa, and afterward took up their abode on the Des Moines river, where Mr. Page owned forty acres of land. There he engaged in logging and in manufacturing lumber, devoting three years to that business. His labors brought him a substantial prosperity, after which he purchased another forty acres south of Sandyville, Iowa. With characteristic energy he began its cultivation and development, making his home thereon until 1873, when he sold out and removed to Lenox. About the same time he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Ringgold county. He spent one summer on that land but could get no perfect title, after which he purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 12, Platte township. He then engaged in farming that property from 1875 until the spring of 1888, when he sold out and removed to Lenox. He had purchased three hundred acres, constituting the south half of section 8, Platte township, erected buildings thereon and cultivated his fields. He afterward bought forty acres adjoining the town and later laid out an addition to the town, selling part of his land in town lots. On his place he erected two large barns and four residences. He has a cement house, which is the only cement residence in Lenox. It is built in neat and attractive style of architecture and has but recently been completed. He also has a cement garage and factory and has been manufacturing cement blocks, sewer pipe, drain tile and burial vaults, carrying on an extensive business in this field of labor. He is a man of keen business discernment and unfaltering enterprise and probably no one has done more toward the upbuilding and improvement of the city of Lenox than Mr. Page. Although he is now seventy-four years of age, he is still very active from daylight to dark and is yet numbered among the most progressive men of the community.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Page was blessed with one son and five daughters. Abraham, who is married and is operating the home farm, is also engaged in raising live stock and is the owner of a large automobile. Betsy Ann is the wife of William Stancamp of Lenox. Alta is the wife of Fred Worm. Etta is the wife of Arthur Nichols of Cass county, Iowa. Jennie Paul is living in Omaha. Emma is the wife of Mart Hayes, who is living upon a part of her father's farm.

Politically Mr. Page is a democrat. He cast his first presidential vote, however, for Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and in 1864 voted for General McClellan. He has since supported every presidential nominee of the democratic party with two exceptions, but has never sought or held office. His wife is a member of the



Christian church and he is a Master Mason, having been identified with the fraternity since 1869. In his life he has exemplified the beneficent spirit of the craft, which is based upon mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness. His intense and well-directed activity throughout his long and useful career has constituted the basis of his success and has won him a prominent place among the most honored citizens of the county.

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### CHARLES OSCAR DRESHER.

Charles Oscar Dresher, in former years identified with the agricultural interest of Taylor county and now a factor in commercial pursuits in Bedford as a dealer in coal and grain, was born in Polk township, this county, May 7, 1862. He is a son of Charles F. and Nancy Jane (Morris) Dresher, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Indiana. The father was a son of Stephen and Louisa (Sneabarger) Dresher, natives of Pennsylvania and of Switzerland, respectively. The former died at an old age while the latter passed away when more than seventy years of age. The Dresher family was of German lineage and was early established on this side of the Atlantic. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Dresher were born twelve children: Charles F., James J., Mary Matilda, Hannah, William, Eliza, Samuel, Albert, Catherine Lucretia, John Henry, George H. and Christie.

In the maternal line Charles O. Dresher comes of English lineage. His great-grandparents were Virginians who removed to Kentucky where Jesse Morris, the grandfather was born and reared. He followed the occupation of farming as a life work and as a companion and helpmate for the journey of life he chose Miss Polly Morris. Both lived to be more than eighty years of age and they, too, had a large family of children, namely: James W., Nancy J., William G., Amanda, Mary Elizabeth, Jesse H., Benjamin F., Marion, Monroe, Martha E. and Frances M.

Charles F. Dresher, the father of Charles O. Dresher, devoted the greater part of his life to agricultural pursuits. He removed to Indiana in 1856 and in 1858 came to Iowa, settling in Polk township, where he had a farm of ninety acres and another of seventy acres. Upon his farm of ninety acres he made his home and reared his family but during the past seven years has lived retired in Bedford. Both he and his wife were members of the Methodist church and their lives have been a credit to that organization because of their fidelity to principles of honor and uprightness. Mr. Dresher held various township offices and has ever been loyal to the duties and interests of citizenship. In an early day he was a leading auctioneer of the county and became widely known in that connection. Unto him and his wife were born two sons and three daughters: Mary Louisa, the wife of Frank Hamilton, a resident farmer of Polk township; Charles Oscar; Jesse Albert, living in Bedford; Martha Ann; and Lydia Araminta, the wife of Walter Myers, of Conway.

Charles O. Dresher was reared on his father's farm in Polk township, acquiring his early education in the district schools through the winter while in the



summer seasons he worked in the fields. He then purchased a farm of eighty acres to which he added an additional tract of eighty acres and as the years passed his time and energies were given to the cultivation and improvement of the place. He continued to till the soil until 1891 when he removed to Bedford, where he has since made his home. His entire life has been passed in Taylor county with the exception of one year and his history is as an open book which all may read. Since taking up his abode in the city he has engaged in business as a coal and grain dealer and has built up a good trade in that line. In addition to his business and a good home in Bedford he owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in this county, from which he derives a substantial annual income.

On the 25th of December, 1887, Mr. Dresher wedded Miss Jennie Aiton, a daughter of William and Catharine Aiton. She was born in Wisconsin while her father was a native of Scotland and her mother of Connecticut. They had eight children, including Mrs. Dresher who by her marriage has become the mother of two sons: William Paul and Oscar Aiton. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dresher are members of the Presbyterian church and are generous in their support of its work. Mr. Dresher is serving as a deacon of the church and he belongs to Bedford Lodge, No. 91, I. O. O. F. He gives his political endorsement at the polls to the republican party and is interested in every vital political question. Recognizing the obligations as well as the privileges of citizenship, he supports those plans and measures which he deems of most worth.

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#### RENSFORD B. BAKER.

Rensford B. Baker, one of the few surviving soldiers of the Civil war, is the second oldest resident settler of Grant township, having located here in the year 1867. The township was then known as South Platte township. He owns an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 15, Grant township, and his time and energies are devoted to general agricultural pursuits and stock raising. His birth occurred in Windham county, Connecticut, on the 15th of January, 1840, and he was there reared to manhood on a farm. In 1862, at Hartford, he enlisted for two years' service in the Union army, becoming a member of Company G, twenty-fifth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. He was assigned to the Southern Division under command of General Banks and participated in the Red River expedition and the engagements at Irish Bend, Donelson and Port Hudson. At the last-named place his regiment was under fire continually for forty-two days. On the expiration of his term of enlistment Mr. Baker was mustered out and honorably discharged at Hartford, Connecticut, in 1864, returning home with a most creditable military record. He then carried on farming in his native state for several years but in 1867 journeyed westward and took up his abode in what was then South Platte township, Taylor county, where he purchased a quarter section of land and erected a small house. His brother Henry who came to this county from Osceola on foot, bought a tract of one hundred and sixty acres adjoining. Henry Baker, who now owns several hundred acres of land in Taylor county, is at present a resident of Canada. For

four years following his arrival in Grant township, Mr. Baker of this review kept bachelor's hall. He broke and fenced his land and also set out a fine grove of forest and evergreen trees on four acres. He likewise planted an orchard and subsequently erected a commodious residence and two barns. As the years passed by and his financial resources increased, owing to his well-directed industry and good management, he added to his landed holdings by additional purchase until two hundred and forty acres are now included within the boundaries of his home farm on section 15, Grant township. It is a highly improved and valuable property and is located within four miles of Clearfield. In addition to his farming interests Mr. Baker also raises and feeds cattle, horses, sheep and hogs and both branches of his business return to him a gratifying annual income.

In 1871, in Taylor county, Mr. Baker was united in marriage to Miss Charlotte Harris, a native of England, who was brought to the United States when but two years of age and was reared in Illinois and Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Baker now have four sons and four daughters, namely: Frank, who follows farming in Lincoln township, Ringgold county; Edward, a resident of South Dakota; Horace, living in Beaconsfield, Iowa; Ralph, who assists his father in the work of the home farm; Eunice, who is still under the parental roof; Olive, the wife of Orville Nelson, of Grant township; and Anna and Almina, also at home. Mr. and Mrs. Baker lost a son, Grant, who died when but four months old.

In his political views Mr. Baker is a staunch republican and has supported every presidential nominee of that party since casting his first ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. He capably served his fellow-townsmen in the position of road supervisor, was township trustee for four years and also acted as a member of the school board for some time. His wife is a devoted and consistent member of the Christian church. The period of his residence in this county now covers more than four decades and he is one of the few who have so long witnessed its growth and development. From time to time he has given hearty cooperation to many movements for the public good and the county owes her development to such men, who dared to face the hardships of pioneer life and have reclaimed this region for the purposes of civilization.

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#### HARRY WILT.

Harry Wilt, busily employed with the duties of field and meadow as he operates his home farm of eighty acres on section 13, Platte township, was born in Taylor county, on the 28th of May, 1867. He is a son of J. M. Wilt and a brother of Eli Wilt, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. He was reared upon the old homestead farm in this township and there remained until he had attained his majority, his youthful days being spent in the usual manner of farm lads, assisting in the work of the fields through the summer months while in the winter seasons he attended the common schools. He was thus well qualified for the practical and responsible duties of life when he started out in business on his own account.



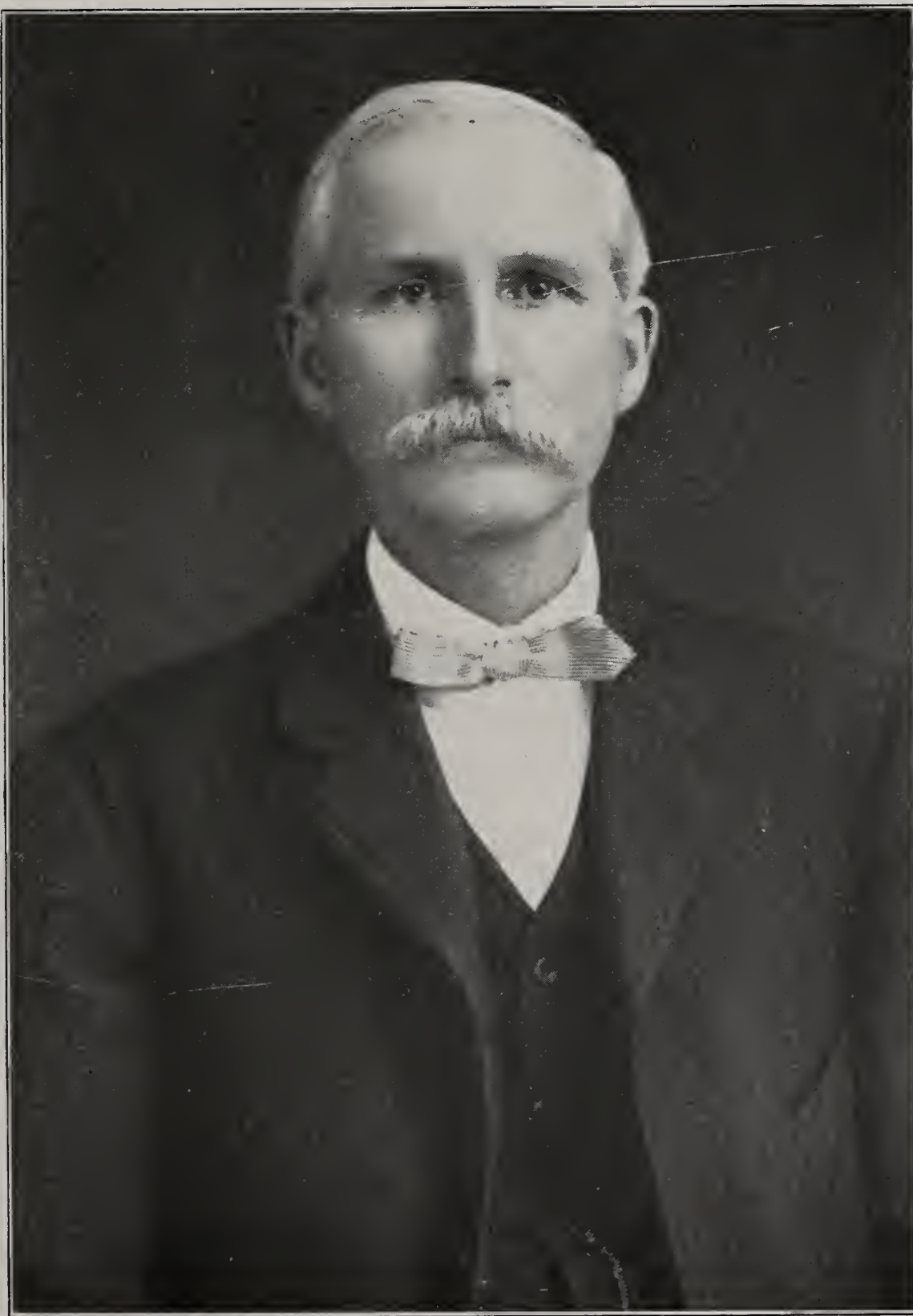
In the spring of 1889, in Creston, Iowa, Mr. Wilt was united in marriage to Miss Nora Jones, who was born in Illinois but was reared in Taylor county, and is a daughter of D. D. Jones, one of the pioneer residents of this part of the state. Her father became a prominent farmer of Platte township, winning success as the years went by, and is now living in Creston, Iowa. Following his marriage Mr. Wilt rented and cultivated the farm belonging to his brother, Eli Wilt, and after two years returned to his father's farm, which he carried on for seventeen years. Following the father's death he purchased the interests of the other heirs in the eighty-acre tract, whereon he now resides, taking up his abode on that place in 1903. He has erected here a good farm residence, a large barn, a double crib, buggy house, washhouse and altogether has a neat and valuable place. The washhouse is supplied with a gasoline engine, with complete machinery to operate the washing machine, wringer, churn or cream separator. Mr. Wilt is a progressive farmer, believing in keeping abreast with the times in the adoption of all modern methods, and this spirit is evidenced in the neat and thrifty appearance of the place and the work which is carried on there. He cultivates the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and also raises stock of good grades. He is recognized as a successful business man and farmer and his industry constitutes the basis upon which he has builded his prosperity.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wilt has been born one daughter, Leo Odessa Wilt, a graduate of the Lenox high school and now one of the successful teachers of the county, being employed at the present time as teacher in the home district. She also has considerable musical talent and is organist for the Calvary Methodist Episcopal church. The parents and daughter are all members of that church and take an active and helpful interest in its work. Mr. Wilt gives his political allegiance to the republican party, but has never been an aspirant for office. His time and energies are given to his business affairs and to matters of public moment for at all times he is interested in the welfare of the community and cooperates in many measures and projects for the general good.

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#### HENRY P. LONG.

Henry P. Long, cashier of the Citizens Bank of Bedford, has been identified with financial interests both in an official and private capacity in Taylor county for a long period and his record throughout the entire time has been such as commands admiration and awakens respect. It is the records of such men that stand as contradictory evidence of the statement, too often heard, that America is given over to the spirit of commercialism; that business and naught else claims the attention and efforts of our leading men. Bedford knows Henry P. Long as a financier of ability, but knows him, moreover, as a public-spirited citizen. The great interests of the country at large—politics, the church and the charities—have made claims upon his attention, claims that he has fully met, and while the business activity and prosperity of the city have been greatly augmented through his labors, her public welfare has profited by his efforts and his history is one which reflects credit and honor upon Taylor county.



H. P. LONG





He was born in Greencastle, Indiana, February 22, 1852, a son of W. M. P. and Hannah (Pope) Long, natives of Virginia and Ohio respectively. The father was a mason and contractor who came to Iowa about 1855 and for two years lived at Chariton. He then removed to Bedford, where he carried on general merchandising and also operated a brick kiln and stone quarry. In the latter part of his life he removed to a farm in Benton township, where he owned one hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land. There he lived for a few years, after which he returned to Bedford and spent his last days in honorable retirement, enjoying the fruits of his former toil. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Johnston, about two miles north of Bedford, when eighty-nine years of age. He had for some time survived his wife, who passed away in 1870 when sixty years of age. They were both members of the Methodist church. Mr. Long was sheriff of the county at an early day and also one of the first mayors of Bedford. His devotion to the public good was unquestioned and even those who differed from him in matters of policy or of politics always acknowledged the honesty of his purposes and his loyalty to a course which he believed to be right. Unto him and his wife were born four sons and four daughters: Eliza J., the wife of J. M. Houck, of Bedford; Angeline, the wife of J. T. Johnston, of Bedford; Marcus D. L., who is a resident of Lawton, Oklahoma; Mary C., the deceased wife of James S. Hall; Sarah B., the wife of M. V. King, of Geneva, Nebraska; William G., living in Chadron, Nebraska; Henry P., of this review; and Hiram M., who makes his home in Bedford.

Henry P. Long was reared in Bedford from the age of five years and its history is therefore largely familiar to him. He has, in fact, left the impress of his individuality upon the records of the city, as he has been more or less closely associated with public affairs. He attended the public schools here and afterward engaged in clerking for his father in a hardware store for a short time. When twenty years of age he became deputy county treasurer and filled the position for five years. He afterward spent one year in California and upon his return to Bedford he secured a clerkship in the clothing store of John Graff, with whom he remained for a year. He next became assistant in the postoffice under his brother-in-law, M. V. King, after which he returned to the county treasurer's office as deputy. There he remained until 1880, when he was elected county auditor, serving for six years. His reelection was proof of the confidence reposed in him and the expression of approval of his course during his first term. Before leaving the office he formed a partnership with L. J. Jones in the real-estate business and on the 10th of August, 1887, he became cashier of the Citizens Bank, which position he is now filling. His business discernment is keen and his judgment sound, so that his opinions on vital questions of banking are of value to the institution. Moreover he is popular with the patrons of the bank, for he is always courteous and obliging.

Mr. Long was married on the 15th of October, 1878, to Miss Carrie F. Parks, a daughter of William H. and Mary C. (Bostwick) Parks. Mrs. Long is a native of Farmington, Michigan, and her father was a native of Canada, while her mother was born in New York. She was their only child and by her marriage has become the mother of four children. Harry B. is married and is now



in the employ of the Schwarzschild & Sulzberger Packing Company at Kansas City, Kansas; Walter F. is with the Swift Packing Company in Kansas City, Missouri; Ralph E. is employed as butter maker and assistant manager of a creamery at Conneaut, Ohio; and Mary is at home.

The parents are members of the Methodist church and occupy an enviable position in the social circles of the city. Mr. Long holds membership in Taylor Lodge, No. 156, A. F. & A. M., Triangle Chapter, No. 68, R. A. M., the Knights of Pythias lodge and the Modern Woodmen camp. He is a supporter of the republican party and in an early day was township clerk. He has served as secretary and treasurer of the Taylor County Fair Association and is interested in all the movements which are calculated to promote the general welfare. In 1887 he was elected secretary of the independent school district of Bedford for one year and then became a director for two years. For one term he was not connected with the board, but in 1893 was again chosen a director and from 1894 until March, 1908, was president of the board. The cause of education has ever found in him a stalwart champion, whose efforts in its behalf have been far-reaching and beneficial.

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#### FREDERICK MILLER.

A well-improved and highly cultivated farm in Mason township, Taylor county, is the property of Frederick Miller, who was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, December 24, 1859. He is a son of Frederick and Margaret (Wingarth) Miller, both natives of Germany, the former coming to the United States in 1843, while the latter accompanied her parents to this country in 1853. The father, upon his arrival in the new world, located in Ohio, where he became identified with agricultural pursuits, being thus engaged up to the time of his demise, which occurred in 1898.

Frederick Miller, of this review, is indebted to the public school system of Ohio for the educational advantages which he enjoyed during his early boyhood and youth, which were passed amid the scenes and environments of his father's farm. He remained a student at school until seventeen years of age, when, laying aside his text-books, he devoted his time to assisting his father in the work of the farm, receiving under his capable direction thorough and comprehensive training in the best methods of cultivating the fields. He remained at home until twenty-one years of age, and then he entered business life on his own account as a farm hand, remaining in this capacity in Ohio for about two years, when he came to Taylor county, Iowa, where he was similarly engaged for another period of two years. Then, feeling that his experience justified such a step, he rented a farm, which he operated for four years. Not feeling satisfied, however, with the progress which he had already won, and desiring that his efforts should more fully benefit himself, he purchased a quarter section of land, which formed the nucleus of his present fine farm. He later added to his original investment from time to time, until his property now consists of two hundred and sixty-nine acres, situated in Mason township. When the property came into his

possession it was still covered with dense timber, but he possessed a determined spirit and indefatigable energy, and he at once began to clear the land, placing his fields under cultivation, and as the years passed his efforts were awarded by rich golden harvests which were gathered each autumn. He continued to improve his farm, erecting in its midst a beautiful modern residence and commodious and substantial barns and outbuildings, installing all of the accessories and conveniences which go to make up a model farm, so that today his is one of the valuable and desirable farming properties of the township. Aside from carrying on general farming he devotes considerable time and attention to stock raising, being an extensive raiser of horses, cattle, hogs and sheep. He is also the owner of a fine thoroughbred French horse, Globule. He is enjoying a substantial income from the fact that both branches of his business—the raising of grain and the raising of stock—are proving profitable, and he ranks among the progressive and representative agriculturists of Taylor county.

It was on the 24th of December, 1884, in Mason township, that Mr. Miller was united in marriage to Sarah M. Gant, a daughter of Samuel and Almyra Gant, the former a very prominent farmer of this township, who originally came to this country from England. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Miller have been born the following children: Mary Elizabeth, deceased; Nellie A.; Frederick Gant; Maggie May and Charles Peter, who both passed away in the same year; Roy Walter, attending school; Ruth Iowa, also in school; Elbert and Albert, twins, the latter of whom is now deceased; and Wilbur and Bertha, infants. In politics Mr. Miller gives stalwart support to the democracy, believing that the principles of that party are best adapted to conserve the public welfare, while on that ticket he has been chosen to serve as a trustee of the township, which office he is now holding. His influence is always on the side of progress, reform and improvement, and he is a thorough going man, enterprising and energetic, reliable in business and a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Taylor county.

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#### HERBERT A. CRUM.

Among the representative farmers of Jackson township is numbered Herbert A. Crum, living on section 6. He is well known as a breeder and dealer in Poland China hogs and Oxford sheep, which find rich pasture on his farm of two hundred and five acres, where are also seen highly cultivated fields of grain. His place is attractively and conveniently located within three miles of Bedford so that the advantages of town life are also easily obtained.

Mr. Crum has resided in Taylor county for the past eight years, having arrived in 1901. He was born in Dewitt county, Illinois, near Clinton, on the 3d of January, 1872, and is a son of Mathias Crum, who was born in Macoupin county, Illinois, where he was reared. Liberal educational advantages were offered him, for after attending the common schools he became a student in Lombard University, from which he was graduated. At the time of the Civil war he espoused the Union cause and served for three years in defense of the stars and



stripes. Later he became a farmer and banker, being identified with the financial interests in Farmer City in the conduct of a banking enterprise for about fifteen years. He is now a prominent and influential resident of Mexico, Missouri, and is president of the Electric Railroad Company, owning an interurban line extending from Mexico to Hannibal. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Mary Ordella Wood, is a native of Quincy, Illinois, in which city they were married.

Herbert A. Crum was reared in the county of his nativity and pursued his education in Farmer City, being a graduate of the high school of that place. He also attended as a freshman the Illinois University, but did not complete his course there. Having arrived at mature years he made preparation for having a home of his own by his marriage in Dewitt county, Illinois, on the 31st of January, 1894, to Miss Luetta Ewbank, who was born and reared there and pursued her education in the normal school at Bloomington. She afterward became a teacher, successfully following that profession prior to her marriage.

Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Crum took up their abode on a farm in Dewitt county, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits for several years. The year 1901 witnessed his removal to Iowa, where he has an attractive farm of three hundred and sixty acres, which he continued to cultivate for five years. He then bought the farm upon which he now resides and has since made it his place of residence. He has now enclosed the place with woven wire and a hog-tight fence, has made many repairs in the buildings and keeps everything in good condition. With his farming he raises and deals in Poland China hogs and Oxford sheep and each year holds a public sale of hogs. He now has a flock of one hundred Oxford sheep, which are well bred. He always handles high-grade stock and is, therefore, enabled to command the best market prices.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Crum have been born five children: Herbert, Duane, Eva, Verneil C., Ruth and John, who are all yet at home. The parents are members of the Bedford Methodist Episcopal church and are people of the highest respectability, enjoying a large measure of the confidence and esteem of all who know them. In his political views Mr. Crum has been a life-long republican, casting his first presidential vote for Major William McKinley and the last for William Howard Taft. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, being a Master Mason of Bedford lodge and he is likewise connected with the Grove Camp of the Modern Woodmen. In all matters of citizenship he is public-spirited, giving active cooperation to many measures for the general good and every act of his life is in keeping with the demands of upright, honorable manhood.

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#### JESSE B. SHEPHERD.

There are those who contend that success is a matter of fortunate circumstances but to those who carefully consider the situation and examine into the life record of the more successful men it will be found that they have made advancement because they have recognized and utilized their opportunities. Nor have they been afraid of hard work and laborious attention to detail which is always necessary to advancement. The record of Mr. Shepherd shows that pros-



perity can be gained by diligent, honorable effort without assistance from any one and he is now one of the leading farmers and stock raisers of Polk township, deriving a substantial income from his business affairs, which are conducted on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 16. He has lived in Taylor county since 1880, being about forty years of age at the time of his arrival. His birth occurred in Ripley county, Indiana, March 19, 1840, and in 1852 he removed with his parents to Illinois, locating in Rock Island county. His father was William Shepherd, who on coming to Illinois opened a new farm, upon which he resided for a number of years. He then sold that property and went to Kansas, establishing his home in Ottawa, where his remaining days were passed. His wife survived him and subsequently came to Iowa, where her death occurred.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for Jesse B. Shepherd in his boyhood and youth. He was a lad of twelve when he accompanied his parents to Illinois and there he was reared on the farm until he went to Kansas with the family, spending one year in that state. He was married, however, in Warren county, Illinois, on the 8th of February, 1866, to Miss Sarah Lathrop, who was born in that county. While in Kansas he worked on railroad construction but returning to Illinois, he located at Roseville, Warren county, and in that locality carried on general agricultural pursuits until 1880. Believing that there was opportunity for judicious and profitable investment in land in southwestern Iowa, he then came to Taylor county and bought one hundred and twenty-five acres in Grant township. With characteristic energy he began to till the soil and improve the place, living there for seventeen years, after which he traded that property for the farm on which he now resides. Along various lines of improvement he has exerted his labors and he has built to and remodeled the house which is now a comfortable and commodious residence. He has also put up a barn and necessary outbuildings which shelter grain and stock and has built fences which divide the farm into fields of convenient size for cultivation. The early spring planting and the cultivation of midsummer is followed by the gathering of abundant crops in the autumn, his labors being thereby generously rewarded. The raising and feeding of stock also constitute a feature of his business, for he now handles high-grade cattle, horses and hogs. In addition to his farm he likewise owns good residence property in Bedford and his realty holdings are the visible evidence of a life of well-directed energy and thrift.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd was blessed with six children: Nancy, the wife of Emmett Phillips, a resident farmer of this county; Levina, the wife of Clark Grubb, of Bedford; Lucinda, the wife of Cassius Wilt, a resident of Macon county, Missouri; Anna, the wife of James Watkins, a Taylor county farmer; Roy C., who is married and is carrying on the home farm; and Albert, who has started out in the business world for himself. They also lost four children in early life.

From early manhood Mr. Shepherd has given stalwart allegiance to the republican party and its principles. He is entitled to wear the Grand Army button from the fact that he did valiant service as a soldier of the Civil war, enlisting in Warren county, Illinois, in November, 1861, as a member of the Eleventh Illinois Cavalry under Colonel Robert Ingersoll. He was at the front for four years, having veteranized at the close of his first term. He participated in the



battles of Shiloh, Corinth and Vicksburg, taking part in the siege of the last named and was also in the first engagement at Jackson. He made a most creditable military record while at the front, never faltering in the performance of any duty and when victory perched upon the Union arms he returned home to take up the duties of private life in the same creditable and acceptable manner which had characterized his course at the front. He is a member of Clearfield Post, G. A. R. and he and his wife are members of the Siam Christian church. Taylor county has but few remaining veterans of the Civil war and as the years pass the country is coming more and more to realize how great a debt of gratitude she owes those who were the defenders of the Union. Mr. Shepherd is not only numbered among the war veterans but is also classed with the representative citizens of Taylor county and with its prosperous farmers. His success is attributable entirely to his own efforts and while he has carried on his business affairs so as to win prosperity he has at the same time been ever straightforward in his dealings, never being known to take advantage of the necessities of another in any business transaction.

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#### HENRY C. WEBB.

Prominent among the enterprising, energetic and successful business men of Bedford is Henry C. Webb, who belongs to that type of representative American citizens who in promoting individual interests also contribute to the general prosperity. He is now manager of the Hawkeye Lumber Company, in which connection he is controlling an important commercial interest in Bedford. A native of Knox county, Illinois, he was born near Galesburg, March 2, 1850, his parents being Dr. Luke and Melvina (Allen) Webb, who were natives of Ohio. The former was a son of John V. Webb, who was also born in the Buckeye State and died in middle life. The maternal grandparents of Henry C. Webb were John B. and Belinda (Bull) Allen. Mr. Allen was born in Ohio, following the occupation of farming as a life work and, removing westward, cast in his lot with the early settlers of Knox county, Illinois, where he died when about eighty years of age. His wife reached the age of seventy years and they reared a large family.

Dr. Luke Webb, who in early life studied and followed dentistry, afterward worked at cabinet-making. He became one of the early settlers of Knox county, Illinois, where he resided until March, 1874, when he came to Iowa, establishing his home in Taylor county. Here he died February 24, 1890, at the age of sixty-seven years, and his widow is now living with her daughter in Pleasanton, Kansas. Both were consistent and devoted members of the Methodist church. Their family numbered six sons and four daughters: Henry C.; Fielding B.; John V.; William; Martha, the wife of Horace Smith, of Colorado; Luella, the wife of Edward Bundy, of Denver, Colorado; Belinda, of Pleasanton, Kansas; Elizabeth, the wife of George Palmer, of Denver; Ira, who died in 1870 when sixteen years of age; and Elmer, who died in 1869 when about two years of age.

Henry C. Webb was reared in the county of his nativity, where he remained to the age of twenty-six years. He has since made his home in Bedford. He had

previously attended the district and public schools of Illinois and afterward operated his father's farm in Chestnut township, Knox county, Illinois, and engaged in purchasing stock for him. He arrived in Bedford on the 20th of October, 1876, and engaged in shipping stock until January, 1890, when he was appointed postmaster under President Harrison. For four years he capably managed the affairs of the office and on his retirement from the position he became connected with the lumber trade and for the past three years has been general manager for the Hawkeye Lumber Company. He is thoroughly conversant with the trade, is an excellent judge of lumber and his previous experience in this line well qualifies him for the duties that devolve upon him in his present connection.

Mr. Webb was married October 8, 1874, to Miss Agnes Smith, who was born in Knox county, Illinois, a daughter of George M. and Rachel (Jones) Smith, who were natives of Pennsylvania and early settlers of Illinois. They had eight children and unto Mr. and Mrs. Webb eight children have been born, namely: Inez Gertrude, Sidney P., Nellie B., Nettie, Vera, Beth, and two who died in infancy.

In his political views Mr. Webb is an earnest republican in hearty sympathy with the principles and purposes of the party. Fraternally he is connected with Bedford Lodge, No. 101, K. P., and he and his wife are faithful members of the Methodist church. They are well known in the social circles of the city and the hospitality of their own home is greatly enjoyed by their many friends. Mr. Webb is very popular by reason of a social, genial nature and cordial disposition. He always has a cherry greeting and pleasant smile for those with whom he comes in contact and back of this are the substantial qualities which make for strong character and self-reliance.

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#### ELVON PIERCE.

Elvon Pierce is a farmer and stock raiser of Jackson township, busily occupied with the duties devolving upon him in connection with the cultivation of a farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres which he owns on section 6. He also cultivates one hundred and twenty acres adjoining this place and his life is one of unremitting diligence and thrift. His farm is situated about four miles from Bedford and its equipment is in accord with the ideas that concern progressive and modern agricultural life.

Mr. Pierce has resided in Taylor county since 1880, coming here when a lad of eleven years. He was born in Lee county, Illinois, April 22, 1870, a son of Samuel and Sarah (Cole) Pierce, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. They removed westward to Illinois, where they lived for some time and were married in Lee county, Illinois, where Mr. Pierce turned his attention to farming, cultivating a good tract of land there. Upon that place all of his children were born and he made the farm his home until 1881, when he removed to Taylor county, Iowa. Here he continued to engage in general agricultural pursuits for a number of years or until his life's labors were ended in death. His widow still survives and now resides with her son Elvon. In their family were



eight children, five daughters and three sons, six of whom survive, the brother of our subject being E. R. Pierce, now a resident of Idaho Falls, Idaho. The sisters are: Ella, now the wife of Aid Bradshaw, of Lee county, Illinois; Kate, the wife of H. V. Guisinger, of Storm Lake, Iowa; Chloe, the wife of Charles Nelson of Bedford, Iowa; and Ila, who resides with her mother and brother upon the farm. One daughter, Eva, became the wife of Homer Chamberlin and is now deceased, and Roy died at the age of fourteen years.

Elvon Pierce, coming to Iowa with his parents when a lad of ten years, was reared to manhood in Taylor county and pursued his education in the public schools. He was early trained to the work of the fields and continued to assist his father until the latter's death. He has since remained upon the home farm, renting the property for a time and eventually purchasing the place. He has built a good barn and outbuildings, has fenced the fields, has set out some fruit and altogether has made a neat farm, rich in its possibilities and its opportunities. In connection with the cultivation of the cereals best adapted to climatic conditions here, he likewise raiser and feeds high-grade stock and, believing himself capable of carrying on farming on a more extensive scale than is demanded upon his home place, he has operated the adjoining one hundred and twenty acres for twelve years and is therefore cultivating a valuable property of two hundred and forty acres.

In his political views Mr. Pierce is a democrat, but has never sought or desired office for he feels that his business affairs demand all of his attention. He belongs to the Presbyterian church and holds membership in Grove Camp, No. 5042, M. W. A. His social qualities have won him kindly regard and warm friendship, while his business reliability and integrity have gained him the good will and trust of all who know him.

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#### LLOYD COMBS.

A valuable farm property pays tribute to the care and labor of Lloyd Combs, who is the owner of one hundred acres of rich and productive land in Mason township, which he purchased in 1908. He is one of Taylor county's native sons, his birth having occurred at North New Market on the 15th of May, 1886. His parents were Burr and Laura (Painter) Combs. The former was a representative of a family that came from Pennsylvania to Iowa and his brothers and sisters were Seth, Frank, Joe, Nancy, and Sissy Combs. At the time of the Civil war Burr Combs responded to the country's call for troops and did valiant service with the Union army, in defense of the stars and stripes. Having arrived at years of maturity he married Laura Painter, who was one of five children, the others being John, Elda, Lizzie and Sadie Painter. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Burr Combs was blessed with eight children, namely: Lloyd, George, Charles, Ned, Osea, Nell, Cora and Lizzie, of which number Cora is now deceased.

At the usual age Lloyd Combs entered the public schools which provided him his educational privileges. He continued his studies until his seventeenth

year, and through the periods of vacation assisted his father on the home farm. After putting aside his text-books he continued to aid his father in the development of the fields of the old homestead up to the time of his marriage, which occurred in North New Market on the 22d of March, 1905, the lady of his choice being Miss Glenna Johnson, a daughter of Kelso and Mary (Wisener) Johnson. The latter is a daughter of John Wisener and her brothers and sisters were John, Ernest, Nina, Jean, Sadie, Bertha, Grace and Della Wisener. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson had two daughters and two sons, Mrs. Combs, Luella, Ed and John.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Combs has been blessed with one child, Harold, who is the light and life of the household. In his political views Mr. Combs is a republican, having continuously supported that party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He does not seek nor desire office, however, but prefers to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, which are carefully conducted and are bringing to him substantial success. He carries on general farming and raises all kinds of stock. He is a young man, having but recently passed the twenty-third milestone on life's journey, but his business ability has already made him recognized as one of the representative agriculturists of Mason township.

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#### G. A. DAVIDSON.

G. A. Davidson, living on section 8, Ross township, is giving his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits. He is a man of resolute spirit, accomplishing what he undertakes and the methods which he always pursues are such as will bear close investigation and scrutiny. As the result of his unfaltering diligence he is now the owner of two hundred and twenty acres constituting a neat and well-improved farm. Moreover he is numbered among the early settlers of the county, having lived here for more than a quarter of a century.

Mr. Davidson was born in Jay county, Indiana, December 15, 1854, his parents being Thomas L. and Rebecca Davidson, both of whom were natives of Ohio, where they were reared and married. The father followed the occupation of farming in that state until his removal to Indiana, at which time he settled in Jay county and from the government entered a tract of heavily timbered land. He did not fear the laborious effort necessary to place this tract under cultivation but at once began to clear away the trees, to grub up the stumps and burn the brush. In course of time the furrows were turned and later abundant crops were gathered as the sun ripened and developed the seed which he sowed. In 1856 he resumed his westward way and settled in what is now Worth county, Missouri, where he again entered land and once more opened up a farm. He also became one of the first nurserymen of northern Missouri. He owned several hundred acres of land there, for as his financial resources increased he wisely placed his money in the safest of all investments—real estate. He died at Grant City, Missouri, in 1901, and his wife passed away in the same place in 1905.

G. A. Davidson was largely reared in Worth county, Missouri, and in his youthful days he assisted his father in carrying on the home farm and in conduct-



ing the nursery business, remaining at home until after he had attained his majority. Desiring to establish a home of his own, he was married in Bedford, Iowa, on the 29th of April, 1875, to Miss Rebecca Cox, who was born and reared in North Carolina. Following his marriage he cultivated his father's farm for five years and in 1881 removed to Nebraska, settling in Seward county, where he continued to carry on general agricultural pursuits for a year. During that time, however, he returned to Iowa and purchased one hundred and forty acres of land on section 8, Ross township, where he now resides. In 1892 he located upon this place and began to till the fields and further improve the farm. He has remodeled the house and has upon his place a large barn and other substantial outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock. He has likewise planted shade and fruit trees and has enclosed his fields and his farm with good fences. In this district, which was once known as a treeless prairie, are now many fine groves and upon Mr. Davidson's place is one of his own planting. In connection with the cultivation of his crops he also raises and feeds stock, handling horses, cattle and hogs, all of high grades. He makes a specialty of Duroc Jersey hogs and fattens from one to three carloads per annum, his sale thereof adding materially to his yearly income. He is an excellent judge of live stock and is, therefore, able to make judicious investments and profitable sales.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Davidson has been blessed with four children: James L., a farmer of Ross township, who is married and has one son, Wendel; Mrs. Nettie M. Wilson, who since the death of her husband has resided with her father and has two children, Claud and Beulah Wilson; Arthur, who is married and is now in Riverside, California; and Cora L., at home.

In his political views Mr. Davidson is independent, supporting the man whom he regards as best qualified for the duties of the office without regard to party affiliation. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend and he has been officially identified with the schools. While he is a busy man, carefully devoting his time and energies to his stock-raising interests, he has also found opportunity for travel and has been away from his place at three different times for about a year at a time, having spent about a year in California, a year in Grant City, Missouri, and a year in Bedford, Iowa. He is a man of social, genial nature and this quality has made him popular with those with whom he has been brought in contact.

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#### GEORGE W. DAVIS.

A neat and well-improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Grove township pays tribute to the care and labor bestowed upon it by George W. Davis, a native of Coshocton county, Ohio, whose birth there occurred on the 25th of January, 1841. He is a son of William and Mary (Stamates) Davis, and was but an infant at the time of his father's demise. He moved to Muskingum county, Ohio, with his widowed mother, who later was again married. There he was reared to manhood and at the age of eleven years was thrown upon his own resources, earning his own livelihood and supporting his mother until fifteen years of age. Consequently he had no opportunity of attending



G. W. DAVIS AND FAMILY





school, being entirely a self-educated man who, by extensive reading and close observation, has gained a wide general knowledge.

In September, 1861, Mr. Davis enlisted from Muskingum county as a soldier in the Civil war, becoming a member of Company D, Sixteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and went south to Kentucky, where he saw much active service. His first battle was at Crab Orchard and later he participated in the engagement at Cumberland Gap, while he was also present at the siege and surrender of Vicksburg. Subsequently he was detailed for hospital service, but became ill and was taken to Keokuk Hospital, where he remained during one winter. In the spring of 1864, he joined his regiment at Matagorda Bay and later went up the Mississippi River, taking part in the Red River expedition under General Banks, during which period he participated in several skirmishes. He was then ordered home and honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio, his term of enlistment covering three years and one month.

After leaving the army, Mr. Davis returned to Muskingum county, Ohio, where he remained during the following winter, and in 1865 went to Illinois, where he worked as a farm hand in both Henderson and McDonough counties for some time. Later he rented a farm which he operated until 1877, in which year he came to Iowa, purchasing one hundred and twenty acres of raw prairie land in Grove township. No improvements had been made upon the place and he was confronted with the difficult and arduous task of opening up a new farm and converting the uncultivated land into productive fields. Nothing daunted, however, he at once directed his efforts toward its development and later purchased another one hundred and twenty acres, soon bringing the entire tract of two hundred and forty acres under a high state of cultivation. He enclosed his fields with good fences, erected a comfortable and attractive dwelling and substantial and commodious barns and outbuildings, and under his careful management the farm became a well-improved and valuable property. He later sold eighty acres, so that the home place now consists of one hundred and sixty acres. He not only carries on general farming but engages to some extent in stock raising and feeding, both branches of his business proving good sources of profit.

It was in September, 1871, that Mr. Davis was united in marriage in Henderson county, Illinois, to Miss Emma Johnson, and unto this union have been born eleven children, namely: Elmo M., who is married and is conducting business at Fredonia, Kansas; William M., also married and with his brother at Fredonia; Arthur, who is married and resides in North Dakota; Blanche A., the wife of Louis Key, a farmer of Grove township; Lenora, who married Homer Laird, of Mount Ayr, Iowa; Clara, residing at Fredonia, Kansas; Inez, the wife of Charles Gould, of Taylor county; Dollie and Elsie, who are also married; Bonnie, single, who makes her home with her sister Dollie in Fredonia, Kansas; and Walter, who died four years ago.

A careful study of the political situations early led Mr. Davis to give his allegiance to the republican party, as the principles of that organization were, in his opinion, best adapted to conserve the general welfare. Public-spirited in his citizenship, he has at all times cooperated in all of those movements which have for their object the material, intellectual and moral development of the com-



munity. Although he has never sought office for himself, he was elected township trustee, which position he filled for some years, and also served efficiently as a member of the school board. He holds membership in Blue Grove Christian church and is a gentleman of high ideals and honorable and upright manhood. Having resided in Taylor county for thirty-three years, he has become well known throughout the community in which he resides and also has many acquaintances in Bedford, while a large circle of warm friends hold him in high regard because of his many excellent traits of character. He has seemed to realize in a large degree his obligations to humanity, and his actions toward his fellowmen have ever been governed by a spirit of brotherly kindness which has made him very popular with all who know him. Having started out at the early age of eleven years to earn his own living, with no favoring circumstances at the outset of his career, he has worked his way steadily upward in the business world until he has won a most creditable measure of success and richly deserves the proud American title of a self-made man.

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#### C. J. ENGSTROM.

Among the citizens that Sweden has furnished to this section of Iowa, none is held in higher esteem or more justly merits the confidence and respect of his fellow-men than does C. J. Engstrom, who for years was one of the active, industrious and prosperous farmers of Taylor county, and still owns a farm of six hundred and ninety acres in Marshall township. This is a well-improved and valuable property and he derives therefrom a substantial annual income. He has lived in the county since 1875. His birth occurred in Sweden August 1, 1848, and he was there reared to the age of nineteen years, when he came to the new world. He now has two brothers in the United States—August Engstrom, who came to America in 1871 and is now located in Henry county, Illinois; and Fred Engstrom, who arrived about 1886 and is living in North Dakota.

While still in his native country, C. J. Engstrom learned and followed the cabinet-maker's trade but the reports which he heard concerning the opportunities of the new world decided him to seek his fortune on this side the Atlantic, and in 1867 he bade adieu to friends and native country. He took ship at Gottenberg for New York by way of Hull and Liverpool, and in due time landed safely on American shores. He did not tarry on the seacoast, however, but continued his journey to Henry county, Illinois, where he worked on the farm for ten years. He paid his fare across the ocean with his earnings, and with laudable ambition sought the opportunity for investment in farm land on his own account.

It was in 1875 that Mr. Engstrom arrived in Taylor county, where he has now lived for thirty-four years. With the money which he had saved from his earnings he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of raw land in Marshall township, on which not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made. He did not take up his abode upon the place at that time but in 1877 returned, located upon his land and at once began to farm and cultivate it. Soon the once barren fields were made to return rich crops and from time to time he purchased more

land until his possessions aggregate six hundred and ninety acres in two farms, upon which are two sets of good buildings. He erected a substantial residence, two barns and ample sheds for the shelter of grain and stock. He also set out shade trees and an orchard and developed an excellent property. In connection with cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he also raised and fed stock and became recognized as one of the leading stock men and representative farmers of the community. He also owns six hundred and forty acres of land in Canada, and his business record has been one attended with excellent success, placing him prominently before the people in this connection.

Mr. Engstrom was married in Taylor county on the 3d of March, 1880, to Miss Georgia Holstine, who was born in Iowa and reared in Jones county. She died, however, about 1885, and in November, 1887, in Taylor county, Mr. Engstrom wedded Mary A. Dalton, who was born in Clayton county, Iowa, and was there reared to the age of fourteen years, whither she came to this county. Mr. and Mrs. Engstrom now have one daughter, Bessie Fay, a young lady at home.

In February, 1894, Mr. Engstrom rented his farms and removed to Bedford, where he purchased a neat, attractive and comfortable residence. He is a well-known and progressive citizen, belonging to that class of substantial men who are never neglectful of duty, whether it be of a public or private character. Politically he is a republican and has been officially identified with the schools but otherwise has never sought nor held public office. His wife and daughter are members of the Bedford Baptist church and the family is one of the highest respectability, enjoying the confidence, good will and esteem of all who know them. Mr. Engstrom has made a most creditable business record and his life shows what may be accomplished by determined and persistent purpose and by the intelligent direction of labor. He came to America a poor young man but has steadily worked his way upward and is now numbered among the men of affluence in Taylor county.

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#### GEORGE WILLIAM HOOK.

Among the successful business men of Bedford is George William Hook, junior partner of the firm of Willis & Hook, dealers in hardware and furniture. He has sought his success in the legitimate lines of trade and has closely followed the old and time-tried maxims such as "Honesty is the best policy" and "There is no excellence without labor." He has lived in Bedford from the age of eight years, his birth having occurred, however, in Lowry City, Missouri, December 27, 1870. His parents were William and Cynthia Hook, the former born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Kentucky. James Hook, the paternal grandfather, was also a native of Pennsylvania and was of Scotch descent. He lived for a considerable period in Greene county, Pennsylvania, and came to Iowa just after the close of the Civil war, his last days being spent in Agency, this state, where he died at the age of seventy-three. His wife bore the maiden name of Mary Lyle and died at an advanced age. They were the parents of thirteen children. The maternal grandfather of George W. Hook



was a native of Georgia and devoted his life to the occupation of farming. Removing to St. Clair county, Missouri, he there reached old age ere he was called to his final rest. His wife bore the maiden name of Sarah Hinkle and had also reached old age when called to the home beyond. They were the parents of four sons and three daughters.

William Hook was reared in Ohio and during the pioneer epoch in the history of Iowa came to this state, arriving fifty-eight years ago. He settled on the present site of the city of Ottumwa and there purchased a tract of land, which he developed into a well-improved and valuable farm. When the war broke out he and five of his brothers went to the army but after serving for a short time he was so seriously injured that he was discharged. When unfitted for further duty at the front he made his way to St. Clair county, Missouri, where his first wife, Mrs. Amy (Clark) Hook, died. Later he was there married to Mrs. Cynthia Barnett, nee Hopkins, and they returned to Iowa, settling in Bedford, Taylor county, where they lived for many years. They afterward removed to Clearfield, where Mr. Hook died in 1905, at the age of seventy-five years. He had never been ill a day until he sustained a stroke of paralysis, which was the beginning of the end. His widow still survives him and resides in Clearfield. Both were members of the Methodist church. Their family numbered two sons and a daughter: George W.; Mattie, the wife of Dr. F. P. Carry, of Clearfield; and Walter, who died in infancy.

In taking up the personal history of George W. Hook, we present to our readers the life record of one who is well known in Bedford, where he has lived from his early youth. He acquired his preliminary education in the public schools here and afterward attended a business college in Quincy, Illinois. Subsequently he engaged in clerking in Bedford for several years but put aside all business and personal considerations at the time of the outbreak of the war with Spain, and became a private in Company I, Fifty-first Iowa Volunteer Infantry, serving with that command until mustered out with the regiment. After the war he returned home, was married and began farming, which pursuit he followed for five years but thinking to find commercial interests more congenial and profitable, he formed a partnership with C. L. Willis and embarked in the hardware and furniture business, in which he still continues. He now has a well-appointed store, tasteful in its arrangement and attractive in the lines of goods carried. His business methods, too, are such as will bear the closest investigation and scrutiny and the honesty which he displays in all trade relations is one of the strong features of his success.

On the 19th of September, 1900, Mr. Hook was united in marriage to Miss Jessie Boyd, a daughter of John S. and Simildi (Reynolds) Boyd. There were three children of that marriage, Ruth, John and Mary, who are still under the parental roof. Mrs. Hook was born in Marshall township, this county, her parents coming from Ohio to Iowa more than a half century ago. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hook are members of the Methodist church and he is identified with Taylor Lodge, No. 156, A. F. & A. M.; Trangle Chapter, No. 68, R. A. M., and Bedford Lodge, No. 91, I. O. O. F. His political endorsement is given to the republican party but the honors and emoluments of office have no attraction for him, as he prefers to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs. He is

always prominent and active in movements for the public good, however, and at the Chautauqua held in Bedford in the summer of 1908, he had the pleasure of entertaining at his home General John C. Black, who was connected with the Civil Service Commission, and also commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. In addition to his property in Bedford he owns a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Marshall township and as the land is rich and productive he derives therefrom a substantial income. He is yet a young man, possessed of the enterprising spirit which has been the dominant factor in the upbuilding of the middle west. Whatever he undertakes he accomplishes, whether it be for the welfare of the community or for individual interests. His social qualities, too, endear him to his associates, who find him a genial, cultured gentleman, displaying at all times deference for the opinions of others and readily appreciative of good qualities in those with whom he comes in contact.

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### THOMAS CLAREY.

Thomas Clarey is living on a farm on section 26, Platte township, and is numbered among the active and enterprising farmers and stock raisers of the community. His landed possessions include three hundred and sixty acres, constituting a well-improved and valuable farm, on which are two sets of buildings. He has been continuously a representative of agricultural interests in this county since 1874, when he arrived within its borders—a lad of five years. His birth occurred in Barton county, Missouri, August 23, 1869, his father being John Clarey, a native of England, in which country he was reared. He came to the new world as a young man in 1854 and first settled in Delaware, where he resided for two years, after which he removed to Illinois, whence he later made his way to Barton county, Missouri. He was married there to Miss Jane Adams, a native of Ohio, and for seven years engaged in general agricultural pursuits in Barton county, opening up a new farm and making substantial progress in his agricultural activities there. Two sons were born unto the family during their residence in Missouri. In 1874 they removed to Taylor county, Iowa, and Mr. Clarey purchased raw land in Platte township. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon it, but he opened up a farm of eighty acres, transforming the wild prairie into productive fields. He has reared his family upon this place and still makes it his home, being numbered among the representative agriculturists of the community.

Thomas Clarey came to Platte township when a lad of five years and spent his youthful days on the old homestead, assisting in the work of the fields and the performance of other duties incident to the development and the conduct of the farm. The public schools afforded him his educational privileges. He remained with his father until twenty-one years of age, when in the fall of 1889 he was married to Miss Ida Wood, who was born in Pennsylvania but largely spent her girlhood near Creston, in Union county, Iowa. She is a daughter of L. D. Wood, one of the pioneers of Union county.



After his marriage Thomas Clarey rented land, where he engaged in farming for seven years, during which time through his unfaltering industry and careful expenditure he accumulated sufficient capital to enable him to purchase one hundred and sixty acres, where he now resides. He at once began to cultivate and further improve this place, has rebuilt and remodeled the house, has put up a good barn and the necessary outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock, has fenced the fields and has tiled one hundred acres of his land. He also bought an improved place of eighty acres across the road and another eighty-acre tract to the north and now owns three hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land, all well improved. He has set out much fruit, has a good grove upon his place and the farm presents every feature of a model property. Annually he gathers good crops and he also raises and feeds stock, being well known as a breeder of and dealer in Chester White hogs. He holds a general stock sale each year, at which he reaps the profits of his labors.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Clarey have been born four sons and two daughters: Elsie B., the wife of J. L. Johnston of Kellerton, Iowa; George E., Leta Dell, Joseph E., Frank H. and Cecil H., all at home. In his political views, Mr. Clarey has always been a democrat where national issues are involved, but at local elections votes independently. He has been identified with the schools as a director for seven years and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. He belongs to the Odd Fellows society, which he joined in Clearfield, and he has since passed through all of the chairs and has been a representative in the grand lodge. His life has been one of earnest, honest labor, his success being due to his capable management, his reliability and his unfaltering perseverance. He has been a witness of the growth and development of the county for thirty-five years and is, therefore, numbered among its pioneer settlers for the work of cultivating the soil and improving the natural resources of the land had hardly been begun when the Clarey family took up their abode in Platte township.

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#### JOSEPH W. BEAUCHAMP, M. D.

Dr. Joseph W. Beauchamp, holding to high ideals in the practice of his profession, has made a most creditable record as a physician and surgeon of Bedford. He was born in Bloomfield, Iowa, November 7, 1851, a son of Levi and Mary J. (Price) Beauchamp. The former is a native of Delaware and has been a resident of Iowa since 1846. His parents were Joseph and Sarah (Anderson) Beauchamp, also natives of Delaware, and the family is of English lineage. In early manhood Joseph Beauchamp turned his attention to the occupation of farming, which he made his life work. In 1846 he arrived in Iowa and spent his last days in Davis county, this state, where he died at an old age.

Levi Beauchamp is now following farming near Pulaski, Iowa. He, too, arrived in this state in 1846 and he now lives on the farm which he entered from the government more than a half century ago. He first secured one hundred and sixty acres as a claim and from time to time he purchased other land until his holdings were quite extensive but he has now disposed of much of this, re-



taining possession of about three hundred acres. He is a well read man, always keeping thoroughly informed concerning current events, political questions and subjects bearing upon the national welfare. At one time he was county commissioner and was also township assessor for a number of years. He wedded Miss Mary J. Price, a native of Indiana, while her father was born in Kentucky and was of English descent. He married a Miss Harper and at an early day they came to Iowa, settling within its borders before it had been admitted to the Union. The Indians would pitch their tents in front of the Price home, which was situated in what is now Van Buren county. As the years passed, however, Mr. Price bore an active and helpful part in reclaiming the district from the domain of the savages and converting it into one of the rich farming sections of the state. He died there when about fifty years of age, while his widow reached a very advanced age. They were the parents of three sons and three daughters but only two are now living: Mrs. Mary Jane Beauchamp; and Josephine, the wife of John Creeth, of Cantril, Iowa.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Levi Beauchamp are still living, maintaining their residence on the old home farm near Pulaski. They are members of the Christian church and their many sterling qualities have gained them firm hold on the affections of those with whom they have been brought in contact. Their family numbers nine children, seven sons and two daughters, namely: Joseph W., of this review; William and James, who are residents of Pulaski, Iowa; Robert, who follows merchandising in Wanetta, Iowa; Edward D., a practicing physician of Bloomfield, Iowa; Emma, living in Bloomfield; Lizzie, the wife of Edward Matthews, a hardware merchant of Pulaski; Frank, who also makes his home in Bloomfield; and Charles, a druggist of Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Beauchamp was reared on his father's farm in Davis county, devoting the summer months to the work of the fields, while in the winter seasons he attended the district schools. When he had mastered the branches of learning therein taught he continued his education in Troy Academy for two years, after which he was graduated. He next entered the Wesleyan University at Mount Pleasant, where he continued for a year and then began teaching school but he regarded this merely as an initial step to other professional labor, it being his object to fit himself for the practice of medicine. He began his studies under Dr. W. H. Sheldon, of Pulaski, Iowa, and subsequently entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuk, where he completed the regular course and was graduated. He entered upon active practice in West Grove, Iowa, where he remained for fifteen years and then came to Bedford in 1892. Here he has practiced continuously since and in the intervening seventeen years has made for himself an enviable name and reputation in connection with the field of labor which he has chosen as his life work. Wide reading and research keep him in touch with the onward march of the profession and he readily adapts any improved method which his judgment sanctions as of value in his professional labors. He is of cheery presence and hopeful disposition and these qualities add not a little to the effectiveness of his work in the sick room.

On the 7th of December, 1880, Dr. Beauchamp was married to Miss M. P. Ewing, a daughter of William and Mary (Cunningham) Ewing. Her parents were natives of Tennessee and became early settlers of Davis county, Iowa. Her



paternal grandfather was a native of Georgia but died in Tennessee when he had reached old age. Her maternal grandfather was Samuel J. Cunningham, who was also born in Georgia and became an early settler of Iowa. He devoted his life to farming and spent his last days in Davis county, many years being allotted to him ere he was called to the home beyond. His wife bore the maiden name of Dovey Stinson and they reared a large family.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewing, the parents of Mrs. Beauchamp, became early settlers of Davis county, where the latter died in 1871 at the age of forty-one years. The former survived for about a decade and died in 1881 at the age of sixty. They were the parents of six children who reached adult age: Flavius B., a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska; Mrs. Beauchamp; Quince, the wife of W. C. Huggins, of Granger, Washington; Margaret, the wife of William Smart, of Waskada, Manitoba; Jennie, the wife of S. P. Torrence, of Kearney, Nebraska; and Dona, the deceased wife of S. S. Smith, of Ogden, Utah.

Mr. and Mrs. Beauchamp became the parents of three children: Bertha, who is the wife of Arnold W. Lauer and lives at Norman, Oklahoma; and Lenore and Harry, at home. Mrs. Beauchamp is a member of the Presbyterian church and Dr. Beauchamp belongs to Taylor Lodge, No. 156, A. F. & A. M., and Triangle Chapter, No. 68, R. A. M. He is a worthy exemplar of the craft and in his life displays the beneficent spirit which underlies the order. His political support is given to the democracy and he served as county coroner in Davis county and was pension examiner under Cleveland. In more strictly professional relations he is connected with the County and State Medical Societies, the Missouri Valley Medical Society, the Southwestern Iowa Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He has given his life to a profession in which wealth or influence availeth little or naught to attain success. Advancement must depend entirely upon the individual, his capabilities and his devotion to his work and Dr. Beauchamp belongs to that class of physicians who in the faithful performance of each day's duties find inspiration and encouragement for the labors of the succeeding day. While well versed in his profession from a scientific standpoint, experience has also proven to him a valuable teacher and he is quick to master the lessons which are learned in that school.

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#### J. M. STICKELMAN.

J. M. Stickelman, who carries on general farming on section 16, Polk township, his home being about a mile from Siam, was born in Gallia county, Ohio, February 28, 1846, and was reared at Fort Recovery, Mercer county, this state. His youthful days were passed on his father's farm and when a young man he learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked for several years in Ohio and later in Taylor county, Iowa, becoming a contractor and builder of this part of the state. He arrived here in 1870, bought land and then returned to Ohio, after which he and his mother, three brothers and a sister drove across the country to Iowa. Mr. Stickelman first purchased two hundred eighty-seven and a half acres and he and his brothers broke the sod, harrowed the land, sowed the seed



and in due course of time gathered good crops. Year by year the work of general improvement and development was carried on. The first home was a small slab house, which they occupied for a year or more but as they prospered in their undertakings more modern improvements were added to the farm and a more comfortable and commodious dwelling was erected.

It was on the 14th of April, 1872, that Mr. Stickelman was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Howe, who was born and reared in Taylor county, a daughter of Samuel Howe, one of the first settlers of this part of the state. The young couple began their domestic life upon the farm which Mr. Stickelman had secured but they traveled life's journey together for only a brief period, as the young wife was called to her final rest after two years. In 1882 Mr. Stickelman was again married, his second union being with Miss Missouri Ingram, whom he wedded in Nodaway county, where she was born and reared. There were seven children of this marriage: Arthur, who is married and carries on general agricultural pursuits on the home farm; Iva, the wife of E. J. Glover, of Siam; Nellie, the wife of Floyd Cobb, who is living in Ross township; Elma and Elda, twins, the latter the wife of Elmer Henderson, of Bedford, Iowa; Lonesa, a young lady at home; and J. Loyd, who completes the family.

The continuous, earnest and well-directed effort of Mr. Stickelman has transformed his wild prairie land into a fine farm and he is now the owner of one hundred and seventy acres of rich land on section 16, Polk township, within a mile of Siam. The place is supplied with all modern equipments and accessories and from the fields he annually gathers good crops, while in the pastures are found high grades of live stock, for he is well known as a stock raiser and feeder. He has erected a substantial residence on his place, together with a large barn and has also set out an orchard of apple, peach and other fruit trees. He makes a specialty of feeding hogs and handles a large number each year, his financial resources being thereby materially increased. What he undertakes he carries forward to successful completion and his business ability places him in the front rank of those who are active in promoting the agricultural progress of this part of the state.

Mr. Stickelman has long been recognized as a stanch and unfaltering supporter of the republican party, casting his first ballot for its candidates. He has served for years as assessor and for nine years as trustee. He has been identified with the schools, being director thereof and also treasurer for fifteen years and also president of the school board for several years. The cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion, his labors being an effective force in promoting the efficiency of the schools through the adoption of progressive measures and the employment of competent teachers. He has also served on both the petit and grand juries. Both Mr. and Mrs. Stickelman are members of the Siam Christian church, in which he is serving as a deacon.

His fraternal relations are with the Masons and he has served as master of Plumb Lodge, No. 285, A. F. & A. M., for nineteen years. Both he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star and Mr. Stickelman does all in his power to advance the interests of the fraternity, his own life being thorough exemplification of the beneficent spirit of the craft. He has filled all the chairs in the lodge and in the Eastern Star chapter and through his political connections has been



a delegate to both the county and state conventions. He is well known among the old settlers of this part of the state and his memory goes back to a time when the work of improvement had been scarcely begun here. In the passing years he has borne his full share in the task of general development and has taken great pride in whatever has been accomplished, as the wild prairie has been transformed into fine farms, while villages have become progressive and enterprising cities. He relates many interesting incidents of the early days and has witnessed many of the important events which have left their impress upon the history of the county.

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### FRANCIS EDWARD CROUCH.

Many who start out in life as Francis Edward Crouch did—a poor young man—fail because they lack the mental mastery of affairs or because they do not have the power of physical endurance. Mr. Crouch, however, possesses a character that makes him strong, forceful, determined and aggressive, and it has been these qualities that have enabled him to push his way on to success until today he stands foremost among the landowners of Taylor county, his possessions now aggregating five hundred and forty acres in one body, located in Gay township.

Mr. Crouch was born in Adams county, Illinois, September 4, 1847, a son of A. D. and Elizabeth (Hughes) Crouch, the former a native of New York state, while the latter was born in Illinois. A. D. Crouch was but a young lad when he left the Empire state and took up his abode in the west, his location being Hancock county, Illinois, where he opened up a farm and spent his remaining days, his death occurring there in 1885.

Francis E. Crouch was reared on the home farm in Hancock county, Illinois, remaining with his father until he was twenty-three years old, during which time he assisted largely in the operation of the home place, and it is through the knowledge he then acquired that has come his success in later life. While still a resident of Hancock county Mr. Crouch was married, February 28, 1871, and the lady of his choice being Miss Mary Etta Boren, who was born in Adams county, Illinois, and reared in Hancock county, that state.

Following his marriage, Mr. Crouch engaged in farming in Hancock county but in 1874 came to Taylor county, Iowa, and for three years operated a tract of rented land. In the meantime he had bought land in Page county, Iowa, and, disposing of that tract, he then invested his money in one hundred and sixty acres of raw land in Gay township, Taylor county. He at once undertook the task of breaking the land and preparing it for cultivation, and later he added another tract of one hundred and sixty acres, also wild land. As time passed he added improvements and made his farm a valuable property. He kept adding to his holdings as his finances permitted until his place now embraces five hundred and sixty acres, all in one body. He also bought and improved forty acres for a niece, which he farmed in connection with his own land. On his place stands a good country residence, supplied with all modern conveni-







F. E. CROUCH



MRS. F. E. CROUCH





ences and accessories, two good barns and ample outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock. He also set out an orchard, which is in bearing, and everything about his place is kept in neat and attractive condition. In addition to general farming Mr. Crouch also raised from one to two carloads of hogs and from one to three carloads of cattle annually, and his farm is still well stocked with high grade animals.

In 1900, wishing to take life more easy, Mr. Crouch purchased five acres of land in Blockton, on which he erected a fine house and here he has since made his home. He has abandoned the actual work of the farm but still gives personal supervision to his landed interests, preferring that his time should at least be partially occupied as idleness is utterly foreign to his nature. In December, 1906, Mr. Crouch was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, her remains being interred in the Blockton cemetery.

In politics, a democrat, he has always supported that party when national issues are involved but at local elections he casts an independent ballot. While living in Gay township he served as township trustee but otherwise held no public office. He is a member of the Methodist church, to which his wife also belonged, and she was an active worker and a teacher in the Sunday school. Coming to Taylor county when much of the land was still undeveloped and uncultivated, Mr. Crouch took advantage of the opportunities which here presented and bought much of his land at a low figure. Owing to the settled condition of the country at the present time and to the valuable improvements he has made on his property it has greatly increased in value. He has seen the county grow into one of the prosperous districts of southwestern Iowa, and has borne his full share in this work. He worked hard in his earlier years and now in the evening of life can enjoy his many comforts and feel that his labors have not been in vain. His interests are thoroughly identified with those of Taylor county and at all times he is ready to lend his aid in cooperation to any movement calculated to benefit this section or advance its wonderful development.

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#### WALTER BROWN.

Walter Brown, numbered among the honored veterans of the Civil war and now one of the retired farmers of Taylor county who for fifteen years owned a farm in Platte township, is now living in Lenox. He has lived in the county since March, 1888, and his life of well-directed activity brought him the success which makes possible his present retirement. He was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, on the 17th of January, 1843, and is a son of Hugh Brown, a native of New Jersey, who in his childhood days became a resident of the Buckeye State, where he was reared and married, the lady of his choice being Miss Lydia A. Waite, a native of New York. Mr. Brown followed general farming in Ohio and all of their children were born there. In the year 1853 he removed to Mercer county, Illinois, and purchased a farm upon which he reared his family. As the years passed he carefully carried on the work of the fields and was thus busily employed until his life's labors were ended in death in 1881 when he was sixty-



five years of age. His widow survives him, making her home with a daughter, and is a remarkably well-preserved woman of eighty-eight years.

Walter Brown was reared to manhood in Mercer county, Illinois, and became familiar with the labors of the fields as time passed on. In August, 1862, however, he abandoned the plow and, responding to the country's call for aid, enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and Second Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Going south he joined the army of the Tennessee and participated in the battle of Resaca, Georgia. He was wounded by a gunshot in the right shoulder and being thus disabled was in the hospital for several months. After he was sufficiently recovered he rejoined his regiment at Atlanta and went with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea. He afterward participated in the battles of Averysboro and Bentonville, marched on to Richmond and afterward to Washington, D. C. He was then on detached duty with the commissary department and was mustered out in the capital city, after which he returned to Illinois and was honorably discharged June 16, 1865.

When the country no longer needed his aid Mr. Brown made his way to his Illinois home and remained on his father's farm for about two years. In Paxton, Illinois, on the 10th of December, 1866, he wedded Miss Emily Lehman, who was born in Kendall county, Illinois, but was reared in Knox county and was educated in Lombard University at Galesburg. Later she became a teacher, which profession she followed for four years. Her father, Josiah Lehman, was a native of the state of New York and one of the early settlers of Kendall county, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Brown began their domestic life in Mercer county, Illinois, where he owned and cultivated a good farm, making his home thereon until 1888. On the 3d of February of that year he was called upon to mourn the death of his wife, who left one daughter, Clara, now the wife of G. A. Bryant of Lenox, by whom she has three children, Glen, Clarence and Ruth.

Following the death of his wife Mr. Brown sold his Mercer county property and came to Taylor county, Iowa, purchasing a farm of eighty acres in Platte township, near Lenox. Upon that place he lived for fifteen years and developed it into a good property, carefully cultivating his fields and at the same time raising and breeding stock. Both branches of his business proved profitable and at length, possessing a handsome competence, he sold his property and removed to Lenox where he has since lived retired, purchasing the residence which he now occupies. He also bought one hundred and seventy acres of farm land in North Dakota.

On the 24th of December, 1889, Mr. Brown was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Ellen Stone Blandford, who was born and reared in England and there became the wife of William Blandford, who was a sailor of the British navy and died in the service. Later Mrs. Blandford and her daughter, Elizabeth, came to the new world, settling in Taylor county, Iowa. The daughter is now the wife of Leonard Ross, of this county.

In his political views Mr. Brown is a stalwart republican but the honors and emoluments of office have had no attraction for him. He belongs to the Grand Army post at Lenox, in which he has served as commander, and his wife is a member of the Christian church. Mrs. Brown made a trip to England in the summer of 1909, visiting her friends and the old home at Portsmouth, having a



delightful three months' trip. She landed at Liverpool and on starting home sailed from Southampton. Mr. Brown has also paid an enjoyable visit to his old home in Mercer county and attended the reunion of his regiment at Alpha, Henry county, Illinois, in September, 1909, five of his company being present on that occasion. He also attended the Mercer county fair, where he met many old friends. It must be a source of satisfaction to him that he could now have leisure and means to take these trips, for in former years he was busily occupied with the work of the fields. His close application and energy brought him the success which is now his and which classes him with the retired substantial farmers of this part of the state.

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### JOHN M. HAMILTON.

Nature has generally been lavish in her gifts to all sections of the country. Some regions are rich in their mineral deposits, others in their forest preserves, while the nature of the topography at different times furnishes excellent opportunity for the building of cities, where the waterways may be used for transportation. Still other sections of the country are blessed with the soil that furnishes excellent opportunity to the agriculturist, the rich deposits of the surface soil being such as to make the production of crops a comparatively easy matter. Iowa, today considered one of the foremost agricultural states of the Union, has taken leadership in the production of corn and is scarcely second to any other in the production of other cereals. Among those who are enjoying the advantages here offered is John M. Hamilton, who lives on section 7, Jackson township, and is numbered among the active and prosperous farmers of the locality, owning and cultivating one hundred and ninety acres of fine land. He has lived in the county since 1874 and is numbered among the worthy citizens that Scotland has furnished to the new world. His birth occurred in the parish of Avondale in Lanarkshire, July 24, 1860.

His father, James Hamilton, also a native of the land of hills and heather, was there reared and educated and, after reaching man's estate, he married Janette Bryson, also a native of Scotland. Nine children were born unto them in that country. The favorable reports which they heard concerning the opportunities of the new world led them to seek a home beyond the Atlantic in 1874 and, bidding adieu to friends and native country, they sailed to the United States and then made their way to a region west of the Mississippi, settling in Taylor county, Iowa. Mr. Hamilton secured a farm in Ross township, purchasing a tract of land which he cultivated for several years. Later he sold that property and removed to Jackson township, where he remained until called to his final rest. His wife still survives him and resides on the old home farm. In their family were seven sons and two daughters, all of whom are now married with the exception of one son.

John M. Hamilton was a youth of fourteen years when he accompanied his parents to the United States and the remainder of his minority was passed in Taylor county. He acquired a country-school education and received liberal



training in the work of the farm, assisting his father in the cultivation and improvement of new land. He remained on the old homestead until he had attained his majority and then started out in life on his own account, working by the month as a farm hand for several years. He was ambitious and diligent, however, and, carefully saving his earnings, he at length was enabled to engage in farming for himself.

Mr. Hamilton made preparations for having a home of his own by his marriage in Bedford, Iowa, on the 24th of January, 1886, to Miss Alice Townsend, who was born and reared in Taylor county. After their marriage he rented land which he cultivated for two years and at the end of that time his economy had enabled him to save a sum sufficient to enable him to purchase eighty acres, where he now resides. He afterward bought more land and as the years have gone by he has persistently and energetically carried on the work of the farm which is now one of the excellent properties of Jackson township. He has added to and remodeled the house, has built a barn and other outbuildings, has planted an orchard, has fenced his place, and also has a good feed mill and various kinds of modern machinery upon the farm. In the pastures are fine high-grade horses, hogs and cattle and he fattens the last two for the market, shipping about three carloads of fat stock yearly. He is a successful farmer, stock raiser and feeder and while he commenced life empty-handed he is today one of the substantial farmers of the community, and his possessions have been acquired entirely by his own well directed and honorable efforts.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton has been blessed with six children: James Clifford, who is married and follows farming on a tract of land adjoining his father's place; Claud E., Clyde Vern, Leo S., Lotus C. and J. M., all of whom are yet under the parental roof. The parents are members of the Bedford Presbyterian church, in the work of which they are much interested. Mr. Hamilton also belongs to Grove Camp of the Modern Woodmen, in which he is now serving as venerable counsel. When age conferred upon him the right of franchise he began supporting the democratic party and has never wavered in his allegiance thereto. Upon this ticket he was elected and served as township trustee for three years. He may justly be called one of the county's self-made men, for he has been both the architect and builder of his own fortunes. Widely recognized for his business ability and sterling character he has the confidence and esteem of the community and his example may well serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others, showing what may be accomplished when one has the will to dare and to do.

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#### JOSEPH W. PAUL.

Joseph W. Paul, now living retired in Bedford, has passed the seventy-sixth milestone on life's journey. He was for a considerable period closely associated with agricultural interests and is still the owner of a good farm which returns to him a gratifying annual revenue. However, since 1894 he has made his home in Bedford. He was born in Jefferson county, New York, July 15,



1833, his parents being Jeremiah and Polly (Parker) Paul, who were natives of Vermont. The father was a school teacher and farmer and removed from the Green Mountain State to Jefferson county, New York, where he carried on the work of tilling the soil. He died in June, 1853, at the age of fifty-seven years, having for ten years survived his wife, who passed away when about forty-five years of age. Their Christian faith was indicated in their membership in the Methodist church and in their close conformity to its teachings. They were the parents of eleven children, eight sons and three daughters, but Joseph W., of this review is now the only one living and his brothers lie buried in six different states. The members of the household were: Melzor C.; William A.; Allen R.; Eli R.; Sallie C., who was the wife of Timothy Martin; Samuel N.; Emily S., who gave her hand in marriage to Jacob Springer; James E.; Joseph W.; Mary M.; and Merritt Wilbur. Judge Alton B. Parker, who was candidate for president on the democratic ticket in 1904, is a second cousin of Mr. Paul, while John Jacob Astor's wife, who bore the maiden name of Jane Paul, was a sister of Jeremiah Paul, the father of our subject.

Joseph W. Paul was reared to manhood on the old home farm in New York, dividing his time between the work of the fields and the acquirement of an education in the district schools. His mother died when he was but ten years of age and he went to live with a family of strangers. He worked at farm labor, driving oxen, breaking prairie and performing all the tasks incident to the cultivation and development of a farm. In the year 1854 he came west to Illinois but in the spring of 1855 returned to New York. In the fall of that year, however, he located in Henderson county, Illinois, where he lived until 1862, when he enlisted as a member of Company B, Ninety-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for three years lacking ten days. He was on guard duty in Texas much of the time and in 1862 he was captured with his regiment by the guerrilla band under Morgan. He was then paroled for five months and afterward exchanged, joining his regiment again in the parole camp at St. Louis. He participated in a number of minor battles and was engaged in building a fort on the Tombigbee River above Mobile when the war closed.

After the cessation of hostilities Mr. Paul returned to his home in Henderson county, Illinois, and began farming, which pursuit he followed until 1869. He then came to Taylor county, Iowa, with his family and purchased a farm of two hundred and thirty-seven acres lying principally in Washington township. With characteristic energy he began its development, bringing the fields under a high state of cultivation, so that in course of time he gathered rich crops which found a ready and profitable sale upon the market. He continued to make his home upon his first farm until 1894, after which he bought another farm of one hundred and forty-six acres adjoining in Benton township. This second farm he still owns but has disposed of his original property.

On the 6th of March, 1861, Mr. Paul was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Jane Chandler, a daughter of Jesse and Rachel (Wright) Chandler. She was born near Newtown, Pennsylvania, March 6, 1837, and her parents were also natives of the Keystone State. Her paternal grandfather was Whitfield Chandler a native of Virginia and of Scotch-Irish descent. He devoted his life to the occupation of farming and died at the very venerable age of ninety-three years.



His first wife passed away August 14, 1837, and he afterward married a Mrs. Hoskinson, who had three children by her former marriage but none by the second marriage. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Paul was Justus Wright, a native of Indiana and a farmer by occupation. His wife, Mrs. Rachel Wright, died in early womanhood when Mrs. Paul's mother was nine days old. Mr. Wright, however, lived to be ninety years of age. Jesse and Rachel (Wright) Chandler, the parents of Mrs. Paul, removed to Illinois in 1844 and after residing for two years in McDonough county took up their abode in Hancock county, where they remained for a similar period. Subsequently they went to Henderson county, Illinois, where Mrs. Chandler passed away in 1859, at the age of forty-five years and eight months. Fourteen years afterward Mr. Chandler was again married, his second union being with Lucinda Evans, whose demise occurred at their home in Abingdon eleven years later. Mr. Chandler then made his home with his children, passing away on the farm of his daughter, Mrs. Paul, in 1893, when he had attained the age of seventy-nine years and eight months. He had done active duty in the Mormon war.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Paul has been blessed with four children. Willis A., who is engaged in the timber business at Felsenthal, Arkansas, wedded Miss Hannah Igo, by whom he has a daughter, Helen. Rachel Olive, residing near Gravity in Washington township, is the wife of Jesse Lovett and has three sons, Glenn, Paul and Jay. Osa Edna, who gave her hand in marriage to C. F. Martin, lives in Wellington, Kansas. Clark E. is still under the parental roof.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Paul are members of the Methodist church, are loyal to its teachings and liberal in its support. Mr. Paul belongs to Sedgwick Post, No. 10, G. A. R., while his wife is a member of the Women's Relief Corps. Politically he is a republican and has served as township trustee for eight or ten years, also acting at different times as school director and road commissioner. He has a fine home in Bedford, where he is now living retired, enjoying the fruits of his former toil. As the years have passed by he has made steady progress in his business and his unfaltering diligence, perseverance and capable management have brought to him the success which now numbers him among the men of affluence in the county. He has always been straightforward and reliable in every relation of life and his good qualities have won him a host of warm friends.

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#### ANDREW J. LITTEER.

From pioneer times Andrew J. Litteer has made his home in Taylor county and has not only been an interested witness of its growth and development but has taken an active and helpful part in promoting the progress and upbuilding of this section of the state. He was closely associated with the farming interests of Taylor county for a long period. He arrived in 1855 when this section of Iowa was largely an unimproved wilderness, much of the land being still in possession of the government, while only here and there had a settlement been made to show that the seeds of civilization had been planted on the western frontier. He has



lived to a ripe old age and is now one of the most honored and respected as well as one of the most venerable citizens of the county. He has passed the eightieth milestone on life's journey, having been born in Sussex county, New Jersey, November 7, 1828. There he was reared to manhood and is almost wholly a self-educated man, having had few opportunities in his youth for the acquirement of those advantages which are sought in the schools and in books. He was reared on a farm but on attaining his majority went to New York city and engaged in driving a hack for three years on Broadway and Eighth avenue. He then determined to seek a home in the west and made his way to Iowa, arriving in Bedford in 1855. He went to work, like Abraham Lincoln, at splitting rails and in fact accepted any employment that he could obtain for he had only fifty cents on his arrival in Bedford and necessity made it imperative that he secure immediate employment. He also worked as a farm hand for three years but was desirous of engaging in business on his own account and carefully saved his earnings with that end in view.

On the 23d of September, 1858, Mr. Litter was married in this county to Miss Mary L. Lewis, who was born in Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia, and was a daughter of Enos and Elizabeth Lewis. Her father died on his farm near Philadelphia during the early womanhood of his daughter Mary and the mother then reared her family. Miss Lewis was educated in Philadelphia and later was connected with business interests there for ten years. She came west to Iowa with a lady friend in 1856 and this friend established a millinery business in Dubuque, Miss Lewis entering her employ. In that way she spent one year but the following year, 1858, gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Litter. On the 23d of September, 1908, they were surprised by their friends and neighbors who, knowing the fact that they had traveled life's journey together as man and wife for a half century, gathered at their home in celebration of their golden wedding. They left many substantial evidences of their regard and esteem for this worthy couple and the occasion was a most enjoyable one.

Before his marriage Mr. Litter had purchased a tract of railroad land of one hundred and twenty acres in Marshall township. He at once set to work to break the sod and till the prairie and in course of time had transformed the wild land into productive fields, from which he annually gathered rich harvests. His first home was a little log cabin in which they lived for six years, after which he erected a large two-story frame residence, the family being then comfortably ensconced within. He also built a good barn and outbuildings and had a grove of forty acres of native timberland. He bought more land from time to time as his financial resources increased until he owns four hundred and sixty acres in the old home place and another farm of two hundred and forty acres in Ross township. For several years he continued to engage in general farming but in 1865 removed to Bedford and built on the lot where he now resides. His original home in the city, however, has been replaced by a large commodious residence in which he is now spending the evening of his days. After coming to Bedford he engaged in the jewelry business for eighteen years and at the same time he managed his farming and stock-raising interests. He also conducted a dairy business here in Bedford for six years. His interests have been diversified but always



carefully controlled, and his wise judgment and enterprise have brought to him substantial success.

Mr. and Mrs. Litteer have no children of their own but have reared and educated seven children and thus have done a splendid work in the world. One of these was Ernest Litteer, a nephew of Mrs. Litteer, who for several years engaged in teaching but is now living on the old home farm. He is married and is numbered among the prosperous agriculturists of the community.

In his political views Mr. Litteer was a democrat in early life but in 1856 supported John C. Fremont for the presidency and has never missed an election since that time, supporting every presidential nominee of the republican party. He has served as road supervisor, as township trustee for a number of years and for a few years was also school director. He also served on the town council of Bedford for several years and in every political position has proven himself worthy of the trust reposed in him. He has been a delegate to the state and county conventions of his party and has always been greatly interested in its success because of his faith in its principles. Mr. Litteer is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having taken the degrees of the lodge, chapter and council, and in the lodge he filled various offices and is now a past master. He and his wife were formerly identified with the Eastern Star and Mrs. Litteer filled all of the chairs in that organization, becoming a worthy matron. Mr. Litteer has been a resident of the county for fifty-three years and of Bedford for forty-three years and is one of the oldest living among the first settlers. His work has been of far-reaching importance, for while promoting his individual interests he has also contributed to the substantial growth and improvement of the county. He is a man of tried integrity and worth, and he and his wife have the love and esteem of the entire community.

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#### GEORGE W. BLACK.

Among the representative farmers of Platte township is George W. Black, living on section 13, where he owns and cultivates a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. For a quarter of a century he has lived in this section of Iowa, arriving in Page county in 1876 and in Taylor county in 1884. He was born in Warren county, Illinois, August 9, 1861, and was therefore a youth of fifteen years when he came to Iowa with his father, Samuel Black, who was a native of Tipton, Ohio, and there spent the days of his boyhood and youth. Having arrived at years of maturity he was married in the Buckeye State to Miss Sarah Dunn a native of Indiana. Samuel Black was a cooper by trade and also devoted a part of his time to general farming. On removing to Illinois he took up his abode in Warren county, where he purchased land and opened up a new farm of two hundred and forty acres. Most of his children were born upon that place. In 1876 he came to Iowa, settling in Page county, where he purchased land and again performed the arduous task of transforming wild prairie into richly productive fields. He thus cultivated two hundred and eighty acres and year by year gathered rich crops in return for the plowing, planting and harvesting which

made his one of the well-developed farms of the neighborhood. He spent his last years upon that property and died February 16, 1902, at the advanced age of eighty-six. His first wife had died in Illinois during the childhood of George W. Black and later the father married again, the second wife passing away about four years before the death of her husband.

George W. Black was one of a family of four sons and two daughters, all of whom reached adult age, while three brothers and a sister of our subject are yet living. His youthful days were passed in Illinois and in Page county, Iowa, where he early became familiar with the arduous tasks of converting the virgin soil into rich and productive fields. He aided his father in carrying on the home place until he had reached man's estate and the practical experience which he received made him well qualified for the work which he undertook when he started out upon an independent business venture.

Mr. Black made arrangements for having a home of his own by his marriage, on the 2d of October, 1884, to Miss Maggie Mawhinney, who was born and reared in Page county, a daughter of A. J. Mawhinney, one of the pioneers of Page county but a native of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. On leaving the Keystone State he had removed to Ohio where he married Miss Mary Hull, a daughter of Dr. Hull. On coming to Iowa he developed a farm in Page county, being one of the first settlers in this part of the state. Such was the wild and unsettled condition of the country at that time that it was necessary for him to go to St. Joseph, Missouri, to do his trading and one could ride for miles across the prairie without coming to a house or fence to impede his progress. He spent the remainder of his life there and was recognized as one of the prominent and representative farmers of Page county. Following his marriage Mr. Black came to Taylor county and settled on a farm in Grant township comprising one hundred and twenty acres of land, to the development and improvement of which he devoted his energies and undivided attention until 1902. He then sold that property and bought one hundred and sixty acres, where he now resides. In connection with his farming and stock raising he feeds and fattens stock, shipping about three carloads of cattle and hogs each year. His business judgment is sound, his enterprise far-reaching and the success which he has enjoyed has come to him as the merited reward of his own labor.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Black have been born three sons and a daughter: Samuel A., who assists in carrying on the home farm; Robert L., a student in the Clearfield high school of the class of 1910; Verbal D., also attending the Clearfield high school; and Mary E., a pupil in the home school. The parents are members of Calvary Methodist Episcopal church of Clearfield, in which Mr. Black is serving as a steward, while his wife is an active worker in the church and Sunday school and in numerous auxiliary societies. His children are also members of the church, so that this is a Christian household and one whose influence is a potent force for good in the community.

Politically Mr. Black is a republican and while living in Grant township was officially identified with the schools for a number of years and has served as a member of the school board in Platte township. He belongs to the Clearfield Masonic lodge and his influence is ever on the side of justice and truth, righteousness and progress. He owns one of the neatest homes in Platte township and,



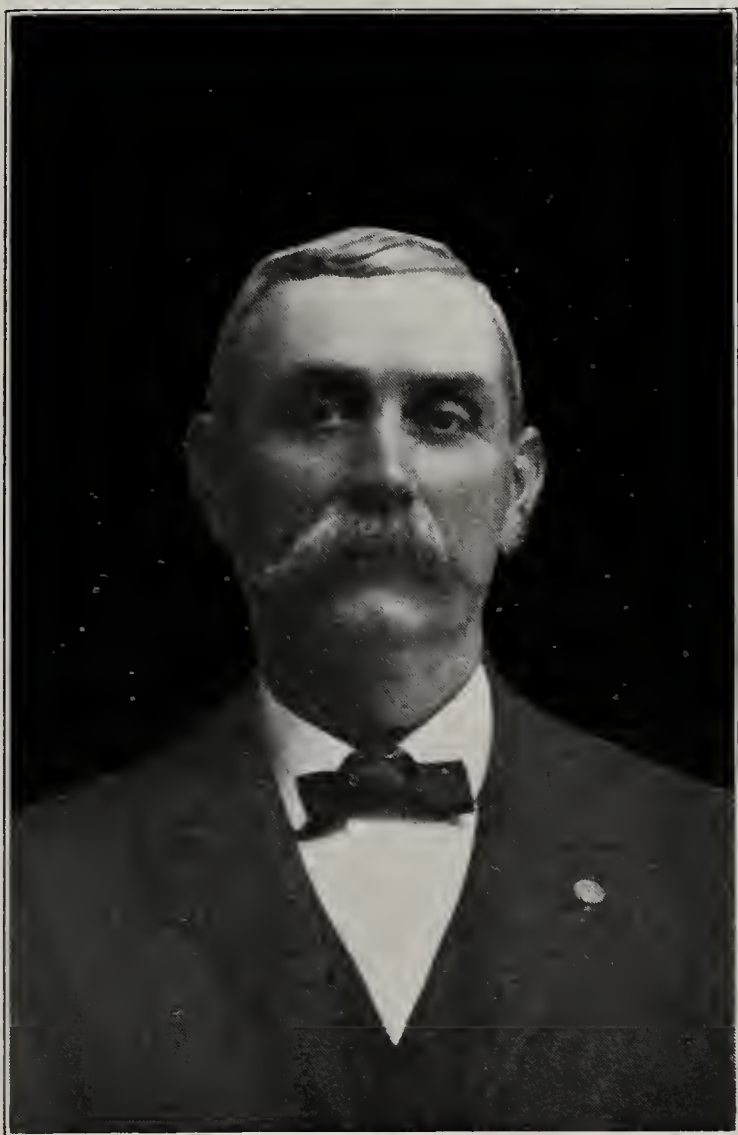
having been a resident of this section of the state from his childhood days, has witnessed the greater part of its growth and development. He early realized the fact that success should be based upon the substantial qualities of industry, perseverance and integrity, and these qualities have been the potent factors in winning him the enviable position which he now occupies as a representative of the agricultural interests of Taylor county.

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L. B. WILSON.

The ranks of Civil war veterans are fast being desolated and among those who still remain to answer to the roll call of the Grand Army of the Republic is L. B. Wilson, of Lenox. For over a quarter of a century he has been numbered among the active business men of this place and is also classed with the old settlers in Taylor county where he dates his residence from 1876. He has lived in Iowa since 1868, arriving here when a young man of twenty-five years. His birth occurred in Clark county, Ohio, on the 12th of June, 1843, and he was there reared to manhood. His educational privileges were somewhat limited but the experiences of life have brought him many valuable lessons, and reading and observation have greatly extended his knowledge. In the opening year of the Civil war he espoused the Union cause, joining the Forty-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as a member of Company D, when eighteen years of age. With his command he went south, joining the forces under General Rosecrans and was first under fire in the engagement at Lewisburg, West Virginia. He afterward participated in the battle of Dutton Hill and in the siege of Knoxville. After he veteranized at Strawberry Plains, he was granted a thirty days furlough and returned home, spending that time happily in association with old friends at the north. Later he returned to the front and afterward joined the Eighth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry with which he did scout duty in West Virginia. Subsequently he went on the Hunter raid in the rear of Lynchburg and was slightly wounded there. Later the regiment camped at Beverly, West Virginia, where Mr. Wilson, together with a number of his company, was captured. He was then taken to Libby and was held as a prisoner of war for several months, almost suffering starvation for the rations granted to the Union prisoners were scarcely sufficient to keep soul and body together. At length he was released under a general order of exchange at the close of the war whereby all prisoners were to be discharged under parole.

No longer held captive in a loathsome prison pen Mr. Wilson returned to Ohio where he recuperated from the hardships of war. After a time he began work at the tinner's trade at Yellow Springs, Ohio, and was there employed for two years. In the meantime he was married on the 14th of September, 1865, to Miss Elizabeth Albin, who was born and reared in the Buckeye State. In 1867, they removed westward to Iowa, settling first in Louisa county, and Mr. Wilson worked at his trade at Fredonia where he remained for about two years. He then removed to Ainsworth, Washington county, Iowa, where he engaged in the hardware and tinware business for eight years. At length he traded his store for land



L. B. WILSON





in Taylor county and shortly afterward made exchange of his farm for a business in Lenox. Here he has since handled hardware and agricultural implements and formerly was also engaged in the coal and grain trade, but at a more recent date has withdrawn from the grain business. He erected a business block which was later destroyed by fire and afterward he rebuilt it and continued the business therein until February, 1899. He has also owned two residences in the town, first purchasing a dwelling and later erecting the neat home which he now occupies. He is recognized as a man of keen business discernment and was one of the promoters, stock holders and directors of the First National Bank, of which he is now the president. He is closely associated with the financial interests of Lenox and since taking up his abode here his labors and efforts have continually been effective in promoting the business progress and advancement of the city. His possessions include two hundred and forty acres of land in Platte township, near Lenox, and his farm is one of the valuable properties of the community.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have been born three children: Edgar T., a business man of Iola, Kansas; Emert J., who is connected with business interests in Lenox; and Etta, the wife of Howard McKenzie, a hardware merchant of Lenox.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he served as a member of the building committee at the time of the erection of its house of worship. He has assisted liberally in building two churches here and was one of the trustees of the congregation in which he now holds membership. His wife is an active worker in the Ladies' Aid Society and both do all in their power to promote moral progress here. Mr. Wilson became one of the charter members of the Grand Army post at Lenox and served for a number of years as its commander. His political allegiance has always been given to the republican party and upon its ticket he has been elected to a number of local offices, serving as a member of the council for a number of terms and also on the township board. He has likewise been a delegate to county and state conventions and assisted in nominating Leslie M. Shaw for governor. His record as a soldier, as a business man and private citizen is one over which there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil. He has conformed his life to high standards, has sought success by honorable methods and at all times has borne in mind the spirit of President Lincoln's statement: "There is something better than making a living—making a life."

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#### FREEMAN P. BEARD.

Freeman P. Beard, a prominent and successful farmer and stockman of Taylor county, was born in DeKalb county, Illinois, on the 20th of January, 1867, his parents being Hiram and Frances (Sears) Beard, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of New York. The maternal grandfather, Archibald Sears, whose birth likewise occurred in the Empire State, carried on agricultural pursuits throughout the greater portion of his business career but in later years became a broker of DeKalb county, Illinois. He passed away in Kendall county, that state, when he had attained the venerable age of ninety-two years. Hiram



Beard, the father of our subject, was a farmer by occupation and in 1847 removed to Illinois, settling in De Kalb county, where he made his home until 1872. In that year he came to Taylor county, Iowa, purchasing a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Ross township, to the further cultivation and improvement of which he successfully devoted his time and energies as the years went by. While residing in De Kalb county, Illinois, he served as superintendent of schools and in Taylor county was also recognized as a most valued and substantial citizen—one whose aid and influence could be counted upon to further any movement or measure instituted to advance the general welfare. He was called to his final rest in 1898, at the age of seventy-two years, having for several years survived his wife, who passed away in 1891, when fifty-seven years of age. Unto this worthy couple were born two children, as follows: Lawrence, a resident of Ross township; and Freeman P., of this review.

Freeman P. Beard, who was a little lad of six years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to this county, was reared on his father's farm in Ross township and attended the district schools in pursuit of an education. After attaining his majority he still continued to reside on the home farm, being busily engaged in its operation until the time of his father's death, when the property came into his possession. He yet owns and operates the place and in addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to the soil and climate he is also engaged in the raising of stock on quite an extensive scale, both branches of his business returning to him a gratifying annual income. Since 1902, however, he has made his home in Bedford, where he owns an attractive, commodious and substantial residence.

On the 11th of February, 1892, Mr. Beard was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary E. McCormick, a daughter of Elisha and Susan (Cummins) McCormick, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Jacob McCormick, the paternal grandfather of Mrs. Beard, was a farmer by occupation and removed to Illinois at an early day. Both he and his wife had attained an advanced age at the time they were called to their final rest. The maternal grandfather, who was a native of Scotland, took up his abode in Maine after crossing the Atlantic to the United States. Subsequently he removed to Illinois, passing away in that state at a venerable age. Mr. and Mrs. Elisha McCormick were born in Pennsylvania and Maine respectively and became early settlers of Warren county, Illinois, where the birth of their daughter, Mrs. Beard, occurred. The year 1875 witnessed their arrival in Taylor county, Iowa, Elisha McCormick purchasing a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Ross township. He afterward extended the boundaries of the place by an additional purchase of seventy acres and carried on his agricultural interests there for some years but subsequently removed to Jackson township and in 1906 took up his abode in Bedford, where both he and his wife have since resided. They reared a family of ten children, as follows: Fanny, who is now deceased; Addie, the wife of R. J. Montgomery; Mary E., the wife of Freeman P. Beard; Villa, who is the wife of C. E. Jones; Elmer, who died at the age of fourteen years; Walter; Ed and Dean, twins; Fred; and Ruby, the wife of Claude Trumbo. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Beard has been born one son, Harold F.



In his political views Mr. Beard is a staunch republican, while fraternally he is identified with Taylor Lodge, No. 156, A. F. & A. M., and Triangle Chapter, No. 68, R. A. M. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Presbyterian church, with which his wife is also affiliated. Well known in the county where he has resided from early boyhood days, he has a wide acquaintance here and has won uniform trust and good will by reason of a life which in all of its phases has been straightforward and honorable.

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E. S. ROWE, SR.

In the days when Taylor county was still a pioneer district, with comparatively few settlers and only a few improved farms, E. S. Rowe took up his abode within its borders. The year 1852 witnessed his arrival and in the fifty-seven years which have since come and gone, he has borne a most helpful and important part in the work of general improvement and development, especially along agricultural lines. His memory goes back to the time when deer and many kinds of wild game were to be had in this section of the country. The prairies were covered with their native grasses, which frequently grew to great height in the summer time and only occasionally was a path seen, showing that the white man or his predecessor, the Indian, had followed the same trail a sufficient number of times to mark indelibly the course that he had trod. Mr. Rowe can relate many interesting incidents of the early days and can tell the tale of development and improvement here. His own record has been marked by steady and substantial advancement and he is now one of the county's prosperous farmers, owning nearly six hundred acres of valuable land in this county and across the boundary line in Nodaway county, Missouri.

Mr. Rowe was born in Lincoln county, West Virginia, September 13, 1840, a son of Abbott Rowe, a native of Kentucky, who was there reared and when a young man went to Virginia. In the latter state he married Miss Anna Diles, who was a native of Tennessee, but was reared in the Old Dominion. For some years after his marriage Mr. Rowe continued to engage in farming in Virginia and six children were born unto him and his wife in that state. In 1852, however, he removed westward to Iowa, settling in Taylor county. While en route he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died while they were traveling through Andrew county, Missouri. On reaching their destination the family settled in Jackson township on a farm of forty acres, which is now the property of E. S. Rowe of this review.

Mr. Rowe was twelve years of age at the time of the removal to Iowa, and he assisted in the arduous task of developing new land and transforming the wild prairie into productive fields. He was married in Nodaway county, Missouri, December 27, 1862, to Miss Mary Dowas, a native of Missouri, who was born near Savannah, and when a child came to Taylor county, Iowa. Her father was Isaac Dowas, one of the early settlers of Andrew county, Missouri, and later a pioneer resident of Taylor county, Iowa. Following his marriage Mr. Rowe began to cultivate rented land, which he farmed for four years, during which time



he carefully and economically saved his earnings until he was able to purchase one of the farms that he now owns. He came into possession of one hundred and twenty acres, which he cultivated and developed, turning the first furrows in the fields and otherwise cultivating the land until he was able to gather rich harvests as the reward for the care and labor which he bestowed upon his farm. As he prospered in his undertakings he bought more land from time to time and now owns nearly six hundred acres. There are three sets of buildings upon the place, two of these being across the boundary line in Nodaway county, Missouri. His diligence and persistency of purpose have brought him substantial success and he annually harvests and markets good crops. He is also equally prosperous as a stock-raiser, feeding and fattening from one to two carloads of stock each year. This also brings a profitable source of income to him and he is now well known in this section.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Rowe have been born four children: Isaac, who is assisting his father in carrying on the home farm; Minerva, the wife of Senator Risser, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume; Eldredge S., who is married and is a prominent farmer of Taylor county, Iowa, and Nodaway county, Missouri; and Anna May, at home.

In his political views Mr. Rowe is a democrat, voting for the party since casting his first presidential ballot for Stephen A. Douglas, the "little giant" of Illinois. He has never sought nor would he accept office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs. He has, however, been always interested in matters relating to the general welfare and has given his aid and co-operation to many movements for the public good. During his long residence in the county he has seen Bedford develop from a cross-roads village and has watched the work of advancement as it has been carried forward continuously until this splendid county is now a monument to the efforts and energies of its leading farmers and business men.

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#### FRANCIS M. HAWKINS.

Francis M. Hawkins, living on section 20, Gay township, is the owner of one of the well-developed farm properties in his part of the county, having one hundred and sixty acres of well-improved land. Taylor county has been his home since 1894 for he arrived here when a young man of about twenty-three years. He was born near Galesburg in Knox county, Illinois, July 31, 1871, and is descended from an old southern family. His father, Enoch Hawkins, was born in Kentucky and was there reared. Making his way to Illinois, he settled in Knox county and as a young man was married there to Miss Eliza Hendricks, who was born and reared in Indiana. On the removal to Illinois all of the family rode across the country on horseback. Following his marriage Mr. Hawkins opened up a new farm in Knox county, cultivating over five hundred acres of land, which he brought under a high state of improvement. After his farm had been developed for the purposes of raising grain he also turned his attention to the breeding of shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. He became well known in that

connection, making large sales of his stock. He continued to reside in Knox county until his death which occurred May 25, 1906, while his wife passed away about 1901. Their family numbered three sons and seven daughters: Thomas, a resident of Abingdon, Illinois; W. B., living in Wyoming; Sarah Jane, the wife of James Ennison, living in Knox county, Illinois; Rillie, the wife of J. A. Lomax, of Jefferson township, Taylor county, Iowa; Katie, the wife of Nathaniel Swanson, of Abingdon, Illinois; Ella, the wife of Frank Hall, living in Macon county, Missouri; Della, the wife of Charles Anderson, a resident of Galesburg, Illinois; Ida, of Abingdon, and Tillie, the deceased wife of Harry Allen, of Hopkins, Missouri.

In the place of his nativity Francis M. Hawkins was reared and acquired his education in the common schools near his father's home and in Abingdon (Illinois) College. Subsequently he returned to the farm and remained in his native state until 1894, when he came to Taylor county, Iowa, and purchased a farm in Jackson township. He commenced here with one hundred and twenty-two and a half acres of land and for about ten years gave his undivided time and attention to the development and improvement of that property. He then traded it for his present farm on section 20, Gay township, and located there in 1905. He is now busily engaged in tilling the soil here and in raising his crops he demonstrates the fact that his methods are practical for he annually gathers good harvests. He also raises high-grade stock and owns some pure-blooded short-horns. He also fattens a large number of hogs each year and for these finds a ready market, because of their size and excellent condition.

Mr. Hawkins was married in Jackson township, this county, on the 17th of February, 1906, to Miss Jessie Grace, who was born in Illinois and came to Iowa with her parents. Her father, Jesse Grace, was a native of Warren county, Illinois, where he was reared and married, the lady of his choice being Miss Jane Sigman, a native of that state. In 1880 they went to Worth county, Missouri, and subsequently came to Taylor county, Iowa. Their daughter, Mrs. Hawkins, was largely reared and educated in her native county and by her marriage she has become the mother of three children: Velma, Vern and Clarion.

Politically Mr. Hawkins is a republican but the honors and emoluments of office have had no attraction for him. His wife belongs to the Baptist church and they are both widely and favorably known in this locality where they have now lived continuously for fifteen years. Their own home is most hospitable and is a favorite resort with their many friends.

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### JOEL WEEKS.

Joel Weeks, who since 1892 has lived retired in Bedford, was in former years actively and successfully identified with the agricultural interests of Taylor county. His birth occurred in Adams county, Ohio, on the 8th of February, 1851, his parents being Ezekiel and Sarah (Coppel) Weeks, the former a native of Cape May, New Jersey, and the latter of Adams county, Ohio. The paternal grandfather, Vincent Weeks, likewise a native of New Jersey, was of English



and German descent. He followed general farming throughout his active business career and passed away in Adams county, Ohio, when about eighty years of age. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Rebecca Risley, also attained a ripe old age. This worthy couple reared a family of seven sons, namely: Ezekiel, John, Risley, Joel, James, Richard and Job. Daniel Coppel, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania and came of German lineage. He did active duty as a soldier in the War of 1812 and was a farmer by occupation, meeting with a creditable measure of success in his undertakings. He became an early settler of Adams county, Ohio, and there continued to reside until he passed away at the age of eighty-four years, at Havana, Mason county, Illinois. His wife had also attained an advanced age at the time of her demise and they reared a family of eight children, three sons and five daughters, as follows: John; Henry; Fletcher; Sarah, who gave her hand in marriage to Ezekiel Weeks; Hannah, who became the wife of Frank Woods; Dorcas, the wife of William Robinson; Jane, who became the wife of Charles Rogers; and Nancy, the wife of William Naylor.

Ezekiel Weeks, the father of Joel Weeks, was a miller by trade and on leaving his native state took up his abode in Ohio, passing away on his farm near Bentonville, Adams county, that state, at the age of forty-one years. His wife, long surviving him, came to Taylor county, Iowa, in 1871, locating in Holt township, where she made her home until a short time prior to her death. Her demise occurred in Lenox on the 25th of December, 1905, and had she survived for but six days longer she would have lived to celebrate her ninety-third birthday. Like her husband, she was a devoted and faithful member of the Methodist church and was highly esteemed for her many good traits of heart and mind, winning the kindly regard and friendship of all with whom she came in contact. She was the mother of two children: Joel, of this review; and Henry, who died at the age of eleven years.

Joel Weeks spent the first seventeen years of his life in the state of his nativity, being reared on the home farm and obtaining his education in the district schools. Removing to Havana, Mason county, Illinois, he there continued to reside until 1871, when he came to Taylor county, Iowa, settling in Holt township, where he purchased a farm of eighty-six acres. To the cultivation and improvement of that property he devoted his time and energies until 1876, when he took up his abode on a farm of one hundred and ten acres in Marshall township. There he energetically and industriously carried on agricultural pursuits for a number of years, winning a gratifying and well-deserved measure of prosperity by reason of his untiring labor and capable management. In 1892, having accumulated a handsome competence, he put aside the active work of the fields and purchased a fine home in Bedford, where he has since lived retired in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. In addition to his farm of one hundred and ten acres in Marshall township he likewise owns a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Cheyenne county, Kansas, and is widely recognized as a most substantial, progressive and representative citizen of the community.

On the 16th of December, 1874, Mr. Weeks was united in marriage to Miss Almira Gordon, a daughter of Uriah and Leva Ann (Babbington) Gordon, who were natives of Pennsylvania but became early settlers of Mason county, Illi-



nois. Uriah Gordon was called to his final rest in 1863, when he had attained the age of fifty-three years, while his wife, who long survived him, passed away in 1899 at the age of seventy-eight years. Their family numbered five children: George, a resident of Havana, Illinois; Albert, also living at that place; Mrs. Weeks; Charlotte, the deceased wife of Daniel McClung; and Ann Maria, who was seventeen years of age when called to the home beyond. Mrs. Weeks was born, reared and married on the same farm in Mason county, Illinois, and still owns an interest in the property. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Weeks were born two sons, George and Horace, whom they lost at the ages of twelve and ten years respectively, both meeting death at the same time by drowning. Their sudden and tragic end came as a deep and almost irreparable blow to the parents.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Weeks has cast his ballot in support of the men and measures of the democracy. In religious faith he is a Methodist and both he and his wife are consistent members of the church of that denomination in Bedford. The period of their residence in this county covers more than a third of a century and they are widely and favorably known within its borders, the circle of their friends being almost coextensive with the circle of their acquaintances.

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#### E. S. ROWE, JR.

There have been many theories advanced concerning success but unprejudiced investigation into the cause of prosperity shows that in almost every instance it follows earnest, persistent and honorable effort when well directed by sound judgment. The record of Mr. Rowe is proof of this, for he has worked diligently and untiringly to gain his present position as one of the progressive and prosperous farmers and stock raisers of Jackson township. He here owns one hundred and twenty acres in the home place and also one hundred and twenty-two acres to the south, across the boundary line in Missouri. He is one of Iowa's native sons, his birth having occurred upon the farm where he now resides on the 29th of September, 1868. He is a son of E. S. Rowe, Sr., of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. His youthful days were spent upon his father's farm, where he early received thorough training in the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops, while lessons of industry were strongly impressed upon his mind. To the public-school system of the county he is indebted for the educational privileges which he enjoyed and which qualified him for life's practical and responsible duties. He assisted in carrying on the home farm and remained with his father until twenty-six years of age and his experience in that period of his life well qualified him for the onerous duties which he assumed when he began farming on his own account.

Mr. Rowe was married in Bedford, Iowa, on the 13th of November, 1895, to Miss Edith Risser, a native of Colorado and a sister of Senator Risser, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Rowe was reared and educated in Nodaway county, Missouri, and after their marriage the young couple located upon a farm where his birth had occurred and where his youthful



days had been passed. Mr Rowe commenced here with one hundred and eighty acres of land, diligently accomplishing the tasks of plowing, planting and harvesting. Desirous of making this a well-improved property, he erected thereon a good large barn and double crib. He also put up a commodious two-story residence, built in modern style of architecture and supplied with all modern conveniences and accessories. The house is piped with water, has a fine bathroom and every facility for making life comfortable. The system of water-works upon the place is particularly fine and altogether the farm presents a splendid appearance, constituting one of the attractive features in the landscape. As his financial resources have increased Mr. Rowe has purchased more land from time to time and is now busily employed in tilling the fields and in raising and feeding hogs and cattle, fattening and shipping from two to four carloads annually. In his business affairs he is prospering, owing to his capable management and judicious investment.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Rowe has been blessed with five children: Orlie, Rex, Oakley, Ellis and Otis. The family occupies a prominent position in the social circles of the county, the members of the household having many warm friends. Politically Mr. Rowe is independent, nor has he ever sought or desired office, yet he is not neglectful of the duties of citizenship and gives to many movements for the general good his earnest support. He has witnessed much of the growth and development of the county for in his early days it was largely an undeveloped region and he herded cattle over the prairies and the ridge. The entire countryside was unclaimed and uncultivated and the few settlers turned their stock to graze out at will. As the years have passed, however, farm after farm has been taken up until almost every acre of Taylor county's soil is cultivated and constitutes one of the richest agricultural sections in the state. Mr. Rowe has contributed to this result and is now numbered among the more successful business men and agriculturists of this section.

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#### DAVID CLARK.

There have been some people that have contested that success is a matter of genius while others have said that it is the outcome of fortunate circumstances or propitious environment, but to such carping criticism or lack of appreciation it may be said that the laws of cause and effect hold as truly in business life as in any other condition and perseverance and diligence constitute the basis of attainment in any line of commercial, industrial or agricultural enterprise. Mr. Clark is numbered among those who have worked persistently for their success. He owns and cultivates a farm of eighty acres which is situated on section 10, Platte township, within two miles of Lenox, and he is also the owner of one hundred and sixty acres one and a half miles south of the home place.

Mr. Clark is numbered among the older settlers of the state for he took up his abode in Benton county in 1860. He was born near Toronto, Canada, July 12, 1855, and is a son of T. W. Clark, a native of Scotland, in which country he was reared and married, Miss Margaret Andrews becoming his wife. She, too,



was born in the land of hills and heather. Mr. Clark was a farmer in his native country and six children were born unto him and his wife ere they left for the new world. Crossing the Atlantic, they settled in Canada in 1855 and there Mr. Clark followed farming until 1860, when he came to Iowa and located in Benton county. As he had no money to purchase property he rented land and thus engaged in farming for eight years. Subsequently he removed to Linn county and took up his abode near Cedar Rapids, where he made investment in one hundred and sixty acres of raw land. It was entirely destitute of improvements but he at once began to till the fields and converted the land into a productive farm. On this place he reared his family and spent his last years, his death occurring there about 1905. His wife had died only two months before and both were buried in the neighborhood.

David Clark is the oldest of a family of three sons and two daughters who are yet living. The others are: George D. and John O., both of whom are residents of Linn county; Maggie, the wife of Albert H. Rogers of the state of Washington; Jennie I., the wife of Samuel H. Bassett of Corning, Iowa; James A., who after his marriage became a resident of Benton county, Iowa, where his death occurred; Alex, who died in Linn county at the age of twenty-eight years; Thomas, who died in Linn county, where he left a wife and two sons; and Robert A., who at his death also left a wife and two children.

David Clark was reared on the old homestead farm in Linn county, spending his boyhood and youth with his parents and assisting in the arduous and difficult task of opening up and developing a new farm, thus practical experience well qualifying him for a general agricultural pursuit when he started out in life on his own account. He was married in Linn county, February 26, 1880, to Miss Martha Malinda Rogers, who was born and reared in that county and was a daughter of Robert Rogers, a native of Ohio, whence he went to Linn county in an early day in its development. After Mr. Clark married he removed to Greene county, where he rented a farm for two years and then purchased two hundred acres of partially improved land. This he farmed and further improved, building thereon a large residence, a good barn and other outbuildings necessary for the shelter of grain and stock. Year by year his work was carefully and systematically conducted and each fall he harvested good crops for which he found a ready sale on the market. He persistently and energetically carried on general farming until 1902, when he sold out and removed to Taylor county, purchasing the place which he now owns. In its midst he has erected a commodious and comfortable residence in modern style of architecture and has built a good barn, which is the second one on the place. He has also set out fruit and he has a neat and attractive property that is lacking in none of the accessories and equipments of a model farm of the twentieth century. In addition to this property he has bought one hundred and sixty acres a mile and a half south of the home place and also has a good residence, barn and other improvements on that land. This farm is occupied by his nephew, Alpha Clark, and they are partners in the raising of shorthorn cattle.

Both Mr. and Mrs. David Clark hold membership in the Lenox Methodist Episcopal church and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party. His public-spirited citizenship is manifest in his cooperation in every movement



for the public good. He has lived in Iowa since a youth of five years and has helped to improve and develop two farms, his business enterprise constituting the forceful factor in his success, while his business integrity has won for him the respect and confidence of all with whom he has come in contact.

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#### HON. DENNIS HAMBLIN.

The list of the leading men of Taylor county contains the name of Hon. Dennis Hamblin, one of the representative and honored citizens of this section of the state. His record as a soldier, as a legislator and as a business man has been so honorable that he has gained the confidence and good will of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

Born in Summer Hill, Cayuga county, New York, March 28, 1836, he was there reared to farm life and attended the district schools to some extent, although he is largely a self-educated man. In 1857, when a young man of twenty-one years, he came west to Taylor county and he and a brother ran a breaking plow one summer, using five yoke of oxen for this purpose. He then returned to the Empire State and assisted his father on the home farm and also worked for others at farm labor, at ten dollars per month. After a time however, he once more came to Taylor county and engaged in breaking prairie. In the fall of 1861 he sold his team and went to Chicago to offer his services to the government, for it was about this time that the Civil war was inaugurated.

His name was enrolled on the 7th of December, 1861, as a member of Company G, Fifty-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, the company being organized at Camp Douglas. After being well trained, the company was sent south in February, 1862, and went as far as Fort Donelson, being first under fire in that memorable battle. He was next sent with General Prentiss' division to Shiloh, where the major portion of the regiment was captured. Later Mr. Hamblin participated in the battle of Corinth, Mississippi, and many of the Union soldiers were here taken prisoners. On being exchanged they were sent back to Springfield, where the command was recruited and reorganized. Mr. Hamblin with the other members of his company was sent from the latter place to Cairo and thence to Paducah, Kentucky, where he spent the summer of 1863.

In the winter of 1863-4 he went south with Sherman as far as Vicksburg, where he participated in the Meridian campaign in February, 1864, while still later he was with Banks on the Red River expedition. Besides taking part in many important battles he was in many skirmishes. At Pleasant Hill while holding the rank of orderly sergeant but acting as captain, his command covered the rear of Banks' expedition to the mouth of the Red River, where a big battle ensued between his company and Loring's Confederate cavalry. Mr. Hamblin had the misfortune to receive a gunshot wound in the left elbow and was sent north to a hospital at Cairo, Illinois. After two or three months he rejoined his regiment at Memphis and was there promoted to the rank of lieutenant. Going up the river to St. Louis from that place, he assisted in chasing Price's army all over Missouri, and later on their return to St. Louis, the regiment proceeded down







DENNIS HAMBLIN



MRS. DENNIS HAMBLIN





the Mississippi and up the Cumberland rivers to Nashville, where they joined General Thomas and drove Hood out of that city. The Civil war discharge of Mr. Hamblin bears the following endorsement: "This soldier was in the following engagements: Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, Iuka, Fort DeRussey, Pleasant Hill, Yellow Bayou and Nashville." He was always found at his post of duty and returned home with a most enviable military record.

During the progress of the war Mr. Hamblin had been home on a furlough and was then married, March 5, 1863, to Miss Eliza McWilliams, of St. Charles, Kane county, Illinois. She was born, however in the north of Ireland, but was reared in Kane county, Illinois. After returning home from the war Mr. Hamblin procured a team and covered wagon and journeyed from that county to Taylor county, Iowa, reaching his destination on the 3d of May, 1865. He first rented land, which he cultivated for several years, and later became the owner of forty acres which was partly improved. On this tract he built a log house fourteen by sixteen feet, in which he made his home several years. As the time passed and he prospered, he added to his possessions until he eventually became the owner of one hundred and twenty acres in Marshall township, Taylor county. On this farm he erected a good country residence, a substantial barn and other outbuildings and engaged in general farming until 1900. In that year he disposed of his farm and took up his abode in Sharpsburg, erecting a nice home in the village, in which he has since lived. In January, 1901, he was appointed inspector of the rural free delivery mail service and in this connection was given free transportation over all railroad and steamship lines in the United States. He had to report at Chicago each week and from that point his service demanded him to touch St. Paul, St. Louis, Omaha and Denver. He capably served in this position until 1906, ever discharging his duties with credit to himself as well as to the satisfaction of those under whom he served.

Mr. Hamblin is a republican in his political views and on that ticket has been elected to important offices. In 1883 he served in the legislature as a member of the twentieth general assembly. He did duty on various important committees and his course received the approval of all concerned. He has also served his township as trustee and assessor and in every official capacity has been faithful to the trusts reposed in him.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Hamblin has been blessed with four children. William Winslow, the eldest, died October 15, 1888, at the age of twenty-one years. A. Laura is the wife of Charles H. Smith, station agent at Norwich, Iowa. Maggie E. is the wife of E. L. West, of Sharpsburg. Clarissa Eliza is the wife of W. T. Brown, a resident farmer of Marshall township.

The parents are members of the Presbyterian church, and Mr. Hamblin is a Mason, belonging to the blue lodge at Conway and to the chapter at Bedford. He is also a member of Sedgwick Post, G. A. R., at Bedford. For fifty-two years Mr. Hamblin has been an interested witness of the growth and development of Taylor county, and he has not only been a witness but has been an active participant in much of the work that has brought this district to its present prosperous and well-developed state. The county has been and is signally favored in the class of men who have controlled its affairs in official capacity, and in this connection Mr. Hamblin demands representation as one who has served the county



faithfully and well in every position of trust and responsibility to which he has been called. His military record, too, was most honorable, and a social, genial nature has endeared him to a wide circle of friends.

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### H. M. LONG.

H. M. Long is one of the best known citizens of Bedford and Taylor county, not only from the fact that he has been active in business circles and also as a farmer and stock raiser but also because of his close connection with affairs relative to the public good. For four years he filled the office of county sheriff and was deputy for twenty years, and in all relations of life his forceful personality and earnest purpose have been felt as factors in the growth and progress of the community. He is a native son of Iowa, having been born in Chariton, Lucas county, December 12, 1854. His father, W. M. P. Long, was a native of Virginia, and was there reared. He afterward went to Ohio, where he married Hannah Pope, a native of that state. Soon afterward they removed to Greencastle, Indiana, where W. M. P. Long engaged in merchandising for several years. In 1854 he arrived in Iowa, settling first in Lucas county, where he turned his attention to general agricultural pursuits, opening up a new farm. He owned some land there and carried on general farming for a few years but in 1857 removed to Taylor county, becoming one of its first settlers. It was still a frontier district, for much of the land was still unclaimed and uncultivated and the work of progress and improvement in other lines seemed scarcely begun. In the new county he established a store and carried on general merchandising for a number of years. He was a stonemason by trade and after he disposed of the store he built the old courthouse and also the schoolhouse and was known as one of the leading contractors and builders of Taylor county. At length he put aside his work in that connection and took up his abode upon a farm near the town, cultivating his fields until he retired from active business life and removed to Bedford, where his remaining days were passed. His wife died in February, 1872.

H. M. Long was only about three years of age when brought by the family to Taylor county and here he was reared amid the wild scenes and environments of frontier life, his memory forming a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present. He can remember the time when most of the homes were small and when it was a severe struggle for existence on the part of many of the settlers but he has lived to see the county converted into a rich and prosperous agricultural district, which is the home of a contented class of people. In his youthful days H. M. Long devoted most of his time to the acquirement of an education and on arriving at mature years he engaged in farming, which he followed until 1882. He then removed to Bedford and filled the office of town marshal for three years, after which he served as deputy sheriff. In 1895 he was elected sheriff and filled the position for four years, while at length he was appointed to the position of deputy and continued to act in that capacity until January, 1909. He served as a member of the council for four years, during which time he exercised his official prerogatives to uphold and advance many



substantial measures for the city's good. He has served as a delegate to the state and county conventions of the republican party, of which he has been a life-long and earnest supporter.

Mr. Long's interests, however, have not been concentrated entirely upon political interests or activity. In fact he is well known as a leading and representative business man of the county. He owns a farm in Clayton township about three miles from Bedford which has been his property for several years. Here he has been engaged in breeding standard bred horses and he is now breeding Percherons. In all of his business affairs he displays keen judgment and whatever he undertakes carries forward to successful completion. He built and owns the cement block factory in Bedford, has erected three or four residences, two livery barns and in other ways has been connected with the substantial improvement of the city in which he makes his home.

On the 15th of October, 1879, Mr. Long was united in marriage to Miss Mary Mattice, who was born in Adrian, Michigan, but was reared in Page county, Iowa, and is a daughter of William Mattice. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Long have been born three children: Forest P., who is married and follows farming at Rollo, Illinois; Cecile, a well-educated young lady, who is now Latin teacher in the high school at Bedford; and B. E., who is married and follows farming on his father's place.

Mr. and Mrs. Long are consistent and worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal church, active in its work and generous in its support. Their daughter and one of their sons are teachers in the Sunday-school and Mrs. Long is also a very active church worker. Mr. Long is an exemplary representative of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to the blue lodge and chapter at Bedford, while he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star. He also is a member of the Knight Templar commandery at Creston, Iowa and of the Ancient and Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at St. Joseph, Missouri. He likewise holds membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias lodge and in some has filled all of the chairs. Spending almost his entire life in Taylor county, Mr. Long has become widely and favorably known in this part of the state. In all of his business relations he has been found reliable as well as enterprising and progressive and his genuine worth has gained for him the unqualified respect and trust of his fellowmen. His official service, too, has been most commendable and in many regards his is an exemplary life, well worthy of emulation.

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#### ASA TERRILL.

Asa Terrill, a well known business man of Blockton who has also been successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits in Taylor county for a number of years, is one of Iowa's native sons, his birth having occurred in Shelby county, August 18, 1855. He is a son of Dwight and Catherine (Bowman) Terrill, natives of Lorain county, Ohio, and Indiana, respectively. The father accompanied his parents to Iowa when a young man and located at Blakesburg. He was married



in Shelby county and later removed to Nebraska. While residing in that state he enlisted as a soldier in the Civil war, participating in the Indian skirmishes on the western plains. Subsequently he removed to Worth county, Missouri and later came to Taylor county, Iowa, locating in Jefferson township. From there he removed to Shelby county, Iowa, where his last days were spent, his death occurring there about 1890. His wife died October 31, 1901.

Reared amid the scenes and environment of rural life, Asa Terrill passed the days of his boyhood and early youth in his native county upon his father's farm and acquired his early education in the district schools, while the periods of vacation were devoted to assisting his father in the work of the fields. He remained under the parental roof until seventeen years of age, when he entered business life as a clerk in Platteville, where he received good practical training and remained until 1877.

On the 25th of August of that year, in Platteville, Mr. Terrill was united in marriage to Miss Ida M. Standley, a daughter of Dr. Standley, a pioneer physician and business man of Taylor county. She is also a sister of Dr. Joseph P. Standley, of Bedford, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume, and was born and reared in Taylor county. After his marriage Mr. Terrill removed to a farm, which he operated for one year, and then went to Bedford, where he conducted the Pacific Hotel for several years. He subsequently sold out and for about a year was identified with mercantile interests at Mankato, Kansas, but in the following March he again sold out and went upon the road as traveling man. He was thus engaged for about four years and during this period he had removed his family to Platteville, where they resided while he was upon the road. Later he withdrew from commercial lines and purchased a farm near that city, to which he removed and upon which he resided until 1902, actively and successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. In that year he came to Blockton and engaged in the hardware and implement business for four years, but since 1906 he has lived retired. During his connection with agricultural pursuits he followed general farming and was an extensive breeder and dealer in live stock, making a specialty of shorthorn cattle, and he held many large and profitable sales. He is still interested in stock raising along the line of his specialty and also owns two valuable and well improved farms, which are proving a source of a very gratifying income to him. As the years have come and gone he has prospered in his various enterprises and has invested in property from time to time until he is now the owner of about eleven hundred acres of fine farm land, constituting him one of the extensive landowners of this section of the county.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Terrill has been blessed with two children. The eldest, Maud Amma, is now the wife of Christian Mosier, a partner of his father-in-law in his farming and stock-raising interests, making a specialty of shorthorn cattle, and by her marriage she has become the mother of one child, Trula Anida. The son, Jay S. Terrill, is a physician and is actively engaged in the practice of his profession in Blockton.

Mrs. Terrill is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and her life has at all times been in harmony with her professions. The family residence in Blockton is owned by Mr. Terrill and is one of the fine, up-to-date homes of the city. He and his wife are well known in the social circles and fraternally he is a



Mason, belonging to the blue lodge, the Bedford Chapter and Leon Commandery, while he also holds membership in the Mystic Shrine at Davenport. Politically Mr. Terrill is a progressive republican, doing all in his power to further the interests of that party in his community. He has served for a number of years as trustee and has also been sent as a delegate to various state and county conventions. Starting out at an early age without capital, he has worked his way steadily upward, improving every opportunity and utilizing every chance that has led to successful advancement. By perseverance, determination and honorable effort he has overthrown the obstacles which barred his path to prosperity and he stands today among the progressive and representative citizens of Taylor county.

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### COLONEL JAMES S. HANSHAW.

Colonel James S. Hanshaw, who has been an auctioneer of Taylor county for the past seventeen years, is a respected and prominent resident of Bedford. His birth occurred in Iowa on the 17th of November, 1862, his parents being John and Elizabeth (Simes) Hanshaw, who were natives of Ohio. James Simes, the maternal grandfather, was a native of Ireland and a farmer by occupation. In 1840 he brought his wife and children to Iowa, locating in Jefferson county, where he purchased considerable land. He there passed away at the age of ninety-two years, while his wife, Mrs. Rebecca Simes, was ninety years of age when called to her final rest. They reared quite a large family.

John Hanshaw, the father of our subject, was a minister of the Methodist Protestant denomination and in 1851 became a pioneer preacher of Jefferson county, Iowa. Twelve years later he married in this state and for twenty-five years followed his holy calling in Taylor county, his efforts proving an important element in the moral advancement of the communities in which he labored. Sustaining a stroke of paralysis, he was then compelled to give up his work as a preacher of the gospel and lived retired in the western part of this county and Bedford until his death. He died in 1907, at Green City, Missouri, when he had attained the age of seventy-six years. His widow still survives, being a well known and highly esteemed resident of New Market. Unto this worthy couple were born eight children, namely: James S., of this review William, who died at the age of thirty-two years; Dora, the wife of John Lindsey, of New Market, Iowa; Frank, who passed away at the age of fourteen years; Emma, the wife of Barton Rowe, of St. Joseph, Missouri; Anna, who also died at the age of fourteen; Ambrose, who follows merchandising in New Market; and Maud R., the wife of Claude Riley, of Green City, Missouri.

James S. Hanshaw spent the first eight years of his life in Wapello county, Iowa, and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Taylor county. He received a good practical education in the district schools and remained on the home farm until he had attained his majority, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. On starting out in life on his own account he rented a tract of land, in the cultivation of which he was engaged for three years, at the end of which time he purchased eighty acres of



land in Polk township on credit and subsequently bought one hundred and sixty acres more in Gay township. Alert, enterprising and energetic, he met with a gratifying and substantial measure of prosperity in the conduct of his agricultural interests and continued to make his home on his eighty-acre farm until 1898, when he came to Bedford and has here since resided, owning an attractive dwelling on West Main street. He has sold the eighty-acre farm but still retains possession of his tract of one hundred and sixty acres. For the past seventeen years he has given his attention to auctioneering and has been very successful as a crier of sales, his services being in demand in all parts of the county.

On the 26th of January, 1892, Colonel Hanshaw was united in marriage to Miss Emma R. Bailey, whose birth occurred in Polk township, Taylor county, on the 8th of July, 1867, her parents being Joseph B. and Sarah (Umbarger) Bailey, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Pennsylvania. Joseph B. Bailey, who was of Scotch descent, was eleven years of age when he accompanied his parents on their emigration to the new world, the family home being established in the state of New York, where he remained until 1851. In that year he made his way to Illinquis, where he was married in 1856, and in 1864 he and his wife came to Taylor county, Iowa, continuing to reside here until called to the home beyond. He was a farmer and blacksmith by occupation and was widely recognized as a most substantial, enterprising and progressive citizen. He died at his residence in Buchanan (now Siam) on January 7, 1890, at the age of fifty-seven years, passing away in the faith of the Presbyterian church, with which his wife was also identified. Her demise occurred on the 17th of February, 1888, when she had attained the age of forty-eight years, three months and fifteen days. Their family numbered thirteen children, seven daughters and six sons. The sons died in early life but the daughters all lived to be married. Their record is as follows: Elizabeth J., the deceased wife of Charles Clayton; Mary, the wife of Fred Branson, of Clayton township; Sarah, the deceased wife of George Abbott, of Abingdon, Illinois; Mrs. Hanshaw; Othello, the wife of O. T. Miller, of Polk township; Cinda, the wife of O. B. Roberts, of Loveland, Colorado; and Josephine, the wife of John Branson, of Alliance, Nebraska. Unto Colonel and Mrs. Hanshaw has been born one son, Carr C.

In his political views Colonel Hanshaw is a stalwart republican, believing that the principles of that party are most conducive to good government. Both he and his wife are devoted and faithful members of the Baptist church and have an extensive circle of warm friends throughout the community. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and Knights of Pythias lodges of Bedford.

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#### WILLIAM M. JACKSON.

William M. Jackson, attorney at law of Bedford, where he has now practiced for about seventeen years, is a prominent and successful representative of the legal profession in Taylor county. His birth occurred at Caldwell, Ohio, on the 27th of November, 1866, his parents being Philip and Rachel (Wiley) Jackson, who are also natives of the Buckeye state. The first representatives of the family



in this country came from Wales with Lord Baltimore and settled in Maryland, whence they afterward removed to Greene county, Pennsylvania, and subsequently went to Ohio. Elijah Jackson, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was born in Ohio and died in early manhood. His wife likewise passed away at a comparatively early age. Their family numbered three sons.

Jacob Wiley, the maternal grandfather of William M. Jackson, was also a native of Ohio. He died when well advanced in years, his demise occurring in Noble county, Ohio, where he had lived for some time. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Martha Gorby also lived to attain a ripe old age. They reared quite a large family, the two surviving members being Eli, now a resident of Lamoni, Iowa; and Mrs. Rachel Jackson.

Philip Jackson, the father of William M. Jackson, followed the carpenter's trade in early manhood. About the year 1888 he made his way from Ohio to Iowa, settling in Ringgold county, this state, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and turned his attention to general agricultural pursuits. He has now put aside the active work of the fields and is living retired in Bedford with his wife, enjoying in well earned ease the fruits of his former toil. At the time of the Civil war he served for about eighteen months as a member of Company I, Thirty-second Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was wounded at the battle of South Mountain. For many years he was a local preacher in the Methodist church, of which both he and his wife are devoted and faithful members. They became the parents of three children, as follows: William M., of this review; D. Fay, who is now deceased; and Roxa A., the wife of Emil Cless, of Lenox, Iowa.

William M. Jackson, whose name initiates this review, remained on his father's farm in Ohio until seventeen years of age and obtained his preliminary education in the district schools. Subsequently he entered the Western Normal College at Shenandoah, Iowa, and after completing the course in that institution he took up the study of law in the State University at Iowa City, being graduated from the law department in 1891.

He was admitted to the bar the same year and located for practice at Clearfield, Iowa, where he remained for a little more than a year. He then came to Bedford and has here since practiced his profession, enjoying a constantly growing and remunerative clientage.

Mr. Jackson has been married twice. In 1891 he was joined in wedlock to Miss Addie Van Winkle, a daughter of Isaiah and Melinda (Blackman) Van Winkle, by whom he had one son, Floyd O. The wife and mother passed away in May, 1893, when but twenty-two years of age. She was a devoted and consistent member of the Methodist church. In June, 1897, Mr. Jackson was again married, his second union being with Miss Nettie Nelson, a daughter of Samuel and Sarah Nelson.

In his political views Mr. Jackson is a staunch republican. In 1892 he was elected to the office of county attorney and capably discharged the duties devolving upon him in this connection for two terms. Fraternally he is identified with Taylor Lodge, No. 156, F. & A. M., Triangle Chapter, No. 68, R. A. M., the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Creston and Bedford Lodge, No. 101, Knights of Pythias. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in



the Methodist church, with which his wife is also affiliated. His ability as a lawyer is widely recognized and the strong traits of his character have made him prominent and popular, not only in professional but also in social circles.

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#### JAMES ELY.

James Ely, who for nearly a quarter of a century was one of the active and enterprising agriculturists and stockraisers of Platte township, giving his attention to the development of a farm of two hundred acres about four miles from Lenox, is now living retired, having for the past twelve years enjoyed a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. Taylor county numbers him among her pioneer residents in that he dates his arrival here in 1875. He has now passed the seventy-fourth milestone on life's journey, his birth having occurred in Washington county, Pennsylvania, September 20, 1835. He is a son of Michael Ely, also a native of the Keystone State, where the days of his boyhood and youth were passed. On attaining adult age, he was married to Eliza McQuater, who was likewise born in Pennsylvania. They continued their residence in that state until about 1842, when they removed westward to Ohio, settling in Muskingum county, where Michael Ely carried on farming for a number of years. He afterward became a resident of Highland county, that state, and died in Greenville, while his wife passed away on the home farm a few years before. James Ely was reared in Muskingum and Athens counties, all of the experiences and labors of farm life early becoming familiar to him. His educational opportunities were those afforded by the district schools, which he attended through the winter seasons, while in the summer months he worked in the fields. He remained with his father until he attained his majority and was married in Athens county, on the 4th of July, 1858, to Miss Julia Sickles, who was there born and reared. Mr. Ely afterward rented a farm for a few years, during which time his untiring industry and careful expenditure brought him sufficient capital to enable him to purchase a place, which he cultivated until 1869. He then sold out and went to Knox county, Illinois, where he purchased a farm, the cultivation and development of which further claimed his attention until 1874. He then disposed of that property and went to Iowa, where he first purchased eighty acres of land, constituting a part of his present place. He at once began to till the soil here and as he prospered in his undertakings he bought more land from time to time until his holdings now include two hundred acres. On this he erected a house and barn, cribs and shed so that shelter is afforded to grain and stock. There is also a grove upon the place of his own planting, while an orchard that he has set out bears its fruits in season. He has enclosed his fields with well kept fences and carefully watched his crops as the weeks passed until the planting of early spring was rewarded by rich harvests of summer and autumn. He also raised and fed stock and is a good judge of farm animals. After cultivating his place for some time he rented the farm and bought a tract of sixty acres to the west adjoining the corporation limits of Lenox. This he cultivated for a year, after which he sold out and removed to Corning, spending one summer there. He then removed

to Lenox and purchased the residence which he now occupies. He also bought thirty-one acres of land now within the corporation limits of the city and has since sold thirteen acres of this, but yet retains the balance. He also owns another residence and three lots in Lenox so that his property holdings are quite extensive and return to him a substantial annual income.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ely has been born a son, Charles, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. The parents are consistent and faithful members of the Lenox Methodist Episcopal church, in which Mr. Ely has filled offices, serving at the present time as one of the church trustees. Formerly he was identified with the democratic party but is now a prohibitionist for he believes the temperance question to be one of the paramount issues before the people today. He is a man of strict temperance principles, honorable and upright in all his dealings and faithful to every trust reposed in him, and as a man and citizen he commands and enjoys the confidence and good will of all who know him.

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#### R. S. HENDERSON.

There is particular satisfaction in reverting to the life history of the honored gentlemen whose name initiates this review since he has for more than three decades been identified with the business interests of Taylor county, and from the fact that he has been a loyal son of the republic and has attained to a position of distinction in agricultural circles in this section of the great state of Iowa. Mr. Henderson makes his home on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 10, Platte township. He was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, July 22, 1844, a son of William Henderson, who was a native of the Keystone state but removed with his parents to Guernsey county, Ohio, when but a young lad. He was reared in the latter state and was married to Miss Rose A. Dool, who was born on the Bay of Belfast, Ireland, but was reared in Harrison county, Ohio. Following his marriage William Henderson remained in Ohio, where he followed farming for a few years. Later he removed to Mercer county, Illinois, where he purchased a farm and spent his last years, passing away there in March, 1877. His wife survived for a long period and was called to her final rest in 1901.

R. S. Henderson is one of a family of three sons and four daughters, who survive. He was quite young when taken by his parents from Guernsey county, Ohio, to Mercer county, Illinois. His boyhood and youth were spent in much the usual manner of farm lads of that period, as he assisted his father in the work of the fields during the spring and summer seasons, while in the winter months he trudged his way to the district school, there to become fitted for the more practical and responsible duties in his later years. He remained with his father until he reached years of maturity and when about twenty years of age, the Civil war having been in progress and his patriotic spirit becoming more and more aroused, he enlisted as a member of Company A, Thirtieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, joining on the 17th of March, 1864. Going south with his command he participated in the Atlanta campaign and later marched with Sherman to the sea. He took part in all the principal engagements along the



line of march, going from Richmond to Washington, where he participated in the grand review. From that city he was sent to Louisville, Kentucky, where he was mustered out, and he received an honorable discharge at Springfield, Illinois.

Returning to his home in Mercer county, Illinois, Mr. Henderson there remained for several years. In 1874, he made a trip to Taylor county, Iowa, and being pleased with the country and its possibilities, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 10, Platte township. He erected a house and broke the land and then returned to Mercer county and resumed his farming operations until 1876. On the 21st of September of that year he wedded Miss Frances H. Brown, who was born in Washington county, New York, a daughter of Jonathan Brown, who had located in Mercer county about 1852. There the daughter was reared and educated. Following his marriage Mr. Henderson and his bride came to his farm in Taylor county, which has since been his home. He first erected a small house and at once began to break the land and put it in shape to plant his crops. Later this crude dwelling was transformed into a more modern and commodious country residence and Mr. Henderson has also built two good barns, granaries, and, other buildings which are always found on a model farm and his place is now one of the valuable tracts of this section of Iowa. He follows general farming and also raises considerable stock, both branches of his business bringing him a gratifying and substantial income.

Mr. and Mrs. Henderson have a son and daughter, Fred M. and Hattie C., both at home. Mr. Henderson cast his first presidential ballot for U. S. Grant in 1868 and he has voted for each nominee of the republican party since that time. He and his wife are members of the United Presbyterian church at Lenox and they are active in church and Sunday-school work, and he holds membership with the G. A. R. Post at Lenox. More than three decades have passed since Mr. Henderson came to Taylor county to cast in his lot with its pioneers. In the years which have since passed he has not only witnessed a most wonderful transformation but has largely aided in the labors which have transformed this district into one of the best counties of the commonwealth. His loyalty to his country when he went to the Civil war at the age of twenty years is a chapter in his history. There is no blot or stain of dishonor upon his name and this can be stated after a long, useful and busy life, covering sixty-five years.

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#### J. L. MOTHERSHEAD.

The ranks of Civil war veterans are fast becoming disseminated and it behooves us to pay all merited honor and respect to those who remain. Among the residents of Taylor county who fought for the Union in the dark days of the Civil war is numbered J. L. Mothershead, who is now living on section 28, Ross township, where he owns and cultivates a good farm of one hundred and twenty acres. The place is neat and well improved and constitutes one of the attractive features in the landscape.



MR. AND MRS. J. L. MOTHERSHEAD





Mr. Mothershead is a native son of Iowa, his birth having occurred in Lee county, April 9, 1841. His father, Barzillai Mothershead, was born and reared in Scott county, Kentucky, and in early manhood went to Illinois, where he became acquainted with and married Martha Yeedenberg, a native of New Jersey. The father was a tailor by trade and followed that pursuit in early life. After living for some time in Illinois, he crossed the Mississippi river into Iowa and became numbered among the pioneer settlers of Lee county when the state was still under territorial rule. He located there about 1836 and entered land from the government, securing a tract upon which not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made. Upon that property he reared his family and for a considerable period was numbered among the progressive agriculturists of the community. His wife died in Lee county about 1858. In their family were eight children, five sons and three daughters, all now deceased with exception of J. L., of this review; and Alvin, of Osborn county, Kansas.

J. L. Mothershead was reared to manhood in Lee county and was only about twenty years of age at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war. He was greatly interested in the political situation of the country and the results involved therein and in the fall of 1861 he offered his services to the government in defense of the Union, joining Company E of the Fifteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. With that regiment he went to the south after spending the first winter in drill in camp at Keokuk, Iowa. In the following spring they proceeded to the seat of hostilities and the first engagement in which Mr. Mothershead participated was the battle of Shiloh, in which he was knocked senseless by a spent ball but not disabled. He afterward participated in the second battle of Corinth and also in the siege of Vicksburg and was in numerous lesser engagements, continuing at the front until honorably discharged. At Vicksburg he served on detached duty for eleven months, being employed in the bake shop of Hospital No. 3.

After his return to Lee county, Mr. Mothershead remained with his father for about two years. He then made preparation for having a home of his own by his marriage in that county in December, 1866, to Miss Harriet W. Redman, a native of Indiana, who was reared near Jeffersonville. The young couple began their domestic life on his father's place where they remained for four months and then settled in Knox county, Missouri, where they continued for eighteen months, Mr. Mothershead raising two crops there. Selling his property in that state, he returned to Lee county but afterward removed to Harvey county, Kansas, settling near Newton, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, securing it through a soldier's warrant. He proved up the land and there carried on general farming for eight years, after which he sold the property and came to Taylor county. Here he invested in one hundred acres where he now resides. On this he took up his abode and with characteristic energy began the further development and improvement of the place. A fine two-story residence which he erected stands as a monument to his thrift and enterprise. He has also built a large barn and good outbuildings and among the attractive features of the place is an orchard, together with many cedar and ornamental trees, which make this one of the beauty spots of the locality. Saving his money for further investment, he purchased twenty acres adjoining the home place and also eighty acres on section 29 and now has a highly improved farm devoted to



the raising of grain and stock. Both branches of his business are proving profitable and the success which he has achieved is the merited reward of his earnest, persistent labor.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Mothershead have been born four sons and three daughters: Charles, who is now a resident farmer of Ross township; Harmon, who also follows farming in the same township; Jesse, who is living in New Mexico; George, who is also in New Mexico, both he and his brother having taken up claims there; Bertha, the wife of Grant Johns, who follows farming in Ross township; Grace, the wife of Frank Keith, a resident farmer of Ross township; and Edith, the wife of Robert Poagne, who is likewise engaged in tilling the soil in Ross township.

The family is one widely and favorably known in this part of the county, the hospitality of the best homes being freely extended to its members. The parents belong to the Berea Christian church and Mr. Mothershead originally gave his political allegiance to the democratic party, casting his first presidential ballot for Samuel J. Tilden in 1878. He continued to vote for the men and measures of that party until recent years but at the last elections he supported Roosevelt and Taft. Locally he is independent, voting for the candidate without regard to his party affiliation. He has for years been officially identified with the schools and is a stalwart champion of the cause of public education. He has been a resident of Iowa during the greater part of his life and for twenty-eight years has made his home in Taylor county. He has wide acquaintance throughout this part of the state and enjoys the confidence and esteem of the entire community. Wherever known he is held in high regard and his warmest friends are those who have known him longest, a fact indicative of an honorable and upright life.

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#### HENRY H. PUTNAM.

Among the esteemed residents of Bedford who are now living retired is numbered Henry H. Putnam, who for years was actively associated with farming interests in Taylor county. He owned and cultivated a good tract of land in Benton township, having two hundred acres which he transformed into one of the fine farms of the locality. He has been a resident of the county for thirty-six years, having arrived in 1873.

He is far separated from the place of his nativity, for he was born in Windham county, Vermont, August 20, 1840, and there he was reared to manhood upon the home farm, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the New England farmer. In response to the country's call for troops he enlisted in February, 1862, in defense of the Union, joining Company H. of the Eighth Vermont Volunteer Infantry. The regiment went south, joining the Department of the Gulf. At New Orleans Mr. Putnam was taken ill and sent to the hospital, where he was later discharged for disability. Returning to Vermont it took two or three years for him to recuperate from the effects of his military experience.



Mr. Putnam made his first trip to Iowa in the spring of 1865, going to Dubuque, after which he worked on a farm and in a dairy for one season. Retracing his steps eastward as far as Whiteside county, Illinois, he was there engaged in farming for two or three years and also carried on general farming near Sterling, Illinois, for one summer.

While living in Whiteside county, Mr. Putnam was married on the 10th of November, 1869, the lady of his choice being Cordelia Chamberlain, who was born in Steuben county, New York, where she remained until a little maiden of seven years. She then accompanied her parents to Whiteside county, Illinois, and was reared and educated there and at Amboy, Lee county, Illinois. After completing her own education she became a teacher and was engaged in this occupation up to the time of her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Putnam began their domestic life in Lee county, Illinois, near Amboy, where he engaged in farming for four years. He came to Iowa in 1873 after previously visiting the state in the fall of 1872, at which time he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land lying in Benton township, Taylor county. Only a few acres of this tract had been broken, while a small house was upon the place. With characteristic energy he at once began to turn the sod and the fields were harrowed and then planted, while in other directions the work of general improvement was carried forward. He built his fences, erected a good house and there engaged in farming for twenty-two years, after which he sold that property and bought another farm one and a quarter miles west of Bedford. It comprised two hundred acres of fairly improved land, which he rented. He bought twelve and a half acres at Bedford, built a comfortable and attractive residence in the city and now has a good home here. In connection with general farming in the production of the cereals best adapted to soil and climate, he also engaged in raising and feeding stock. His business affairs were capably conducted, bringing him a gratifying measure of success that now classes him with the men of affluence in the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Putnam have five sons and three daughters: Jason P., who is married and follows farming in Benton township, owning one of the best improved farms in Taylor county; Rev. I. E. Putnam, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church who is now in the Theological College at Evanston, Illinois; Rev. Charles H., who is a graduate of Cornell College, who is now attending the Theological College at Evanston; Clyde, who is a graduate of Cornell College and is principal of the schools at Armour, South Dakota; Leslie R., who was formerly engaged in teaching and is a graduate in music at Cornell College, having already won considerable fame as a soloist; Flora, who formerly engaged in teaching but is now the wife of William Fitch, a farmer of Benton township; Etta E., who taught for ten terms in this county and was in the county superintendent's office with Mr. Crosson for four years and is now the wife of Morgan Mason, a farmer and auctioneer of Wakeeney, Kansas; and Stella, who has recently completed the high school course in Bedford, and is now teaching. Mr. and Mrs. Putnam also lost two children: Harry H., who died at the age of five years; and Elmer, who passed away when three months old.

In his political views Mr. Putnam is a republican where national issues are involved, but in local elections does not consider the party affiliations of candidates as an essential question. He cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln



in 1864 and has since supported every presidential nominee of the party. He has served as justice of the peace and has been officially identified with the schools, the cause of education finding in him a stalwart champion. For the past thirty-two years Mr. and Mrs. Putnam have sent from one to five pupils to the public schools. They are members of the Bedford Methodist Episcopal church and Mrs. Putnam belongs to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Mr. Putnam holds membership with the Grand Army of the Republic and delights in its camp fires and in recalling the scenes and incidents of war times. He was a loyal soldier but has been equally faithful to his country in days of peace and has the strongest attachment for the stars and stripes.

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#### A. E. KING, M. D.

He whose name introduces this record has gained recognition as one of the best known and ablest physicians of Taylor county, and by his labors, his high professional attainments and his sterling characteristics has justified the respect and confidence in which he is held by the medical fraternity and general public.

Dr. A. E. King was born in Coffey county, Kansas, May, 31, 1858, a son of Thomas and Louise J. (Moore) King. The former, who was born in Ohio in 1836, came with his father, Isaac King, to Iowa in 1839, when three years of age, a settlement being made in Lee county, this state. Later he removed to Appanoose county and still later to Taylor county, locating in Jefferson township. It was while residing in this county that he was married to Miss Louise J. Moore, who was born and reared within its borders. In early life he had been a teacher and taught the first term of school in Platteville, Jefferson township. In 1856 he removed to Kansas, where he became identified with agricultural interests, operating a farm there for a few years. Subsequently he spent a winter in Clay county, Missouri, but in the spring of 1860, returning to Taylor county, Iowa, and engaging in business as a merchant in Platteville. Later he removed to Hawleyville, then to Platteville and in March, 1867, to Mormontown, now called Blockton, where he became known as the pioneer merchant, conducting the first store in that place. Here he spent his remaining years, passing away in 1904, having long survived his wife, whose death occurred October 18, 1862, in Platteville.

Dr. A. E. King arrived in Taylor county in 1860, when but two years of age, and passed the years of his boyhood and youth in Jefferson township, acquiring his early education in the common schools of that locality. Later he decided to make the medical profession his life work and consequently pursued a course of study in a medical college at Keokuk, Iowa, from which he was graduated with the class of 1881. He immediately opened an office for practice in Redding, Ringgold county, where he remained until 1894, in which year he came to Blockton, where he has since been engaged in the general practice of medicine, with the exception of a few years spent in further study. He attended the Hospital College of Medicine at Louisville, Kentucky, from which he was graduated in 1894, while he also pursued a post-graduate course at the Chicago Polyclinic in 1908. He is thus well equipped for the practice of his profession and is ranked among



the able physicians of Taylor county, being well known as one of the oldest practitioners of Blockton and that locality, his circle of acquaintances, friends and patrons extending for a radius of fifty miles. He has built up a very large practice, his extensive patronage coming to him as an expression of the trust and confidence reposed in him by the general public. He is constantly broadening his knowledge by study and research, recognizing fully the obligations that fall upon the physician, and he keeps abreast of the progress being made in the medical world through his membership in the State Medical Association, the Missouri Valley Medical Association and the Taylor County Medical Society. He is often called upon to prepare articles to be read before these assemblies. He conducted a drug store in Blockton and was very successful in this undertaking, but after five or six years was compelled to withdraw from that business to devote his entire time and energies to his constantly growing private practice.

Dr. King has been twice married. In 1878 he wedded Miss Ida May Castor, a native of Missouri, where she was reared. She passed away February 4, 1891, leaving, besides her husband to mourn her loss, one son, Dr. T. W. King, a practicing physician of Meloy, Iowa. They also lost one son, Joseph D., who died at the age of three years. In November, 1893, Dr. King was united in marriage to Lydia J. Shuff, a resident of Worth county, Missouri, and unto them were born three children, but the eldest, Alberta Belle, died at the age of two years. The others are Cecil Valentine and Ruth Madeline. The family reside in a beautiful home in Blockton, which has just been completed by Dr. King and is one of the fine, modern residences of this city.

Mrs. King is a member of the Christian church, while the Doctor holds membership in the blue lodge of Masons, at Blockton, and also belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party but has never sought nor desired public office. He is not, however, unmindful of his duties as a citizen, but gives earnest support to all measures which have for their object the substantial growth and development of the community. His ability and skill have been demonstrated in the successful handling of a number of complex medical problems and he is highly esteemed not only as a professional man but also as a citizen and friend of humanity, who lives for the good he can do his fellowmen.

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#### OTIS M. BROWN.

Among the native sons of Taylor county who are seeking their fortune in agricultural lines, is Otis M. Brown, who has also won considerable distinction throughout the community as a well known and successful stockdealer. His birth occurred in Grant township on the 4th of October, 1875, and he is a son of David and Martha (Freeman) Brown. The father, who is now living retired in Sharpsburg, is numbered among the old settlers of Taylor county, within whose borders he carried on agricultural pursuits for a number of years, and from an early day was thoroughly identified with its growth and development. He was a soldier of the Civil war and gave valuable aid to his country during



her hour of need. He is now serving as a member of the town board of Sharpsburg, is an efficient trustee of Marshall township and is one of the county's honored and respected citizens.

Upon his father's farm in Taylor county Otis M. Brown was reared to manhood, and amid the scenes and environment of rural life laid the foundation stone for a future successful career. He received liberal educational advantages in the common schools near his father's home, and the periods of vacation were devoted to the work of the fields, early becoming familiar with the tasks that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. Remaining under the parental roof, he continued to give his father the benefit of his assistance until he reached man's estate, when he took up agricultural pursuits on his own account, operating a farm in the capacity of renter for some years. It was his desire, however, that his efforts should more directly benefit himself, and so, when he felt that his capital justified such a step, he invested in a farm of two hundred acres, known as the old Fisher farm, to which he removed and to the cultivation and development of which he directed his attention until 1895. In that year he traded that property for his present farm, upon which he has since continued to make his home. The place at first consisted of one hundred and twenty acres, but he later purchased an adjoining tract of eighty acres, so that he now owns two hundred acres, located on section 18, Marshall township. When it came into his possession the property was in a neglected condition and greatly out of repair, but his energy was untiring, his diligence unfaltering and his perseverance indefatigable, and he at once set himself to its improvement. With the passing of the years he wrought a great change in the appearance of the farm and today, due entirely to his well directed efforts and wise and careful management, the place stands among the best improved and valuable properties of the locality. In its midst he has erected a good, substantial dwelling and commodious barns, and outbuildings, all of which stand as monuments to his industry and thrift. He has enclosed the fields with good woven wire fences and has a fine orchard and grove of his own planting, and everything about the place indicates that he has kept in touch with the modern spirit of progress which is manifest in agricultural lines. In connection with his general farming he has, for the past three years, made a specialty of breeding and dealing in Belgian and Percheron horses, having sold some very fine animals of those breeds. He also raises Duro Jersey hogs and has been most successful in his stock interests. He enjoys a gratifying income from the fact that both branches of his business—the raising of grain and the raising of stock—are proving most remunerative, and he is numbered among the substantial, progressive and successful business men of the community.

It was on the 19th of January, 1898, that Mr. Brown was united in marriage in Sharpsburg to Miss Mary Richey, who was born and reared in Taylor county and is a daughter of Isaac Richey, one of the early settlers in this district. Five children have come to bless this union, namely: Oma W., Roy M., Charles O., Grace A. and Daisy M., all of whom are still under the parental roof.

The parents hold membership in the Sharpsburg Presbyterian church and occupy a very high place in the social circles of the community. Politically Mr. Brown has given stalwart allegiance to the republican party since age con-



ferred upon him the right of franchise, although he has never held nor been an aspirant for public office as the reward for party fealty. He was one of the promoters of the Sharpsburg & Gravity Telephone line, serving for two years as its treasurer, and he has also cooperated in many other movements which have been a source of substantial benefit to the community at large. He has a large circle of friends in Taylor county, within whose borders he has spent his entire life, and those who have been acquainted with him from his boyhood know him as a man of the highest principles and most honorable manhood, whose dealings with his fellowmen have ever been such as to inspire the confidence, trust and respect of all with whom he has been associated.

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### HOMER W. SICKELS.

Homer W. Sickels, meeting with success through his well directed efforts in general farming and stock raising, is now one of the prosperous residents of Jefferson township. He makes his home on section 21 and is the owner of five hundred and seventy acres of valuable land in three well improved farms. For a long period he has been identified with the growth and development of this part of the state, being numbered among the pioneer settlers of Taylor county, where he has lived since 1860. He was only about seven years of age at the time of his arrival and upon his boyish memory were impressed many pictures of the district into which the family came as well as the tale of events which marked the progress of early times. He was born in Calhoun county, Michigan, March 23, 1853.

His father, James Sickels, was a native of New Jersey, where he was reared and married. On his removal from the east he became a resident of Calhoun county, Michigan, where he resided for several years, and his children were mostly born there. Thinking perhaps to enjoy better advantages in Iowa and attain success more quickly, he came to this state in 1860, settling first at Plattville, where he engaged in farming. Later he bought one hundred and twenty acres of land, which was entirely devoid of improvements but he at once undertook the task of overturning the first furrows and the breaking plow soon left its mark across the virgin prairie. Upon the farm which he there developed and improved he reared his family, continuing his residence in this county up to the time of his death. His wife survived him for a few years, when she, too, passed away.

The usual experiences of frontier life came to Homer W. Sickels in his boyhood and youth for he shared with the family in all of the hardships and trials incident to the establishment of a home amid pioneer surroundings. As his age and strength permitted he assisted in the task of clearing away the brush and of opening up the farm, carrying on the work until the wild prairie grasses were replaced by fields of waving grain. He continued with his father until he attained his majority and soon afterward was married, the wedding being celebrated in Worth county, Missouri, in 1874, when Miss Susan R. Sleeth became his wife. She was born in Andrew county, Missouri, but was reared in Taylor county, her parents



being David and Margaret (Kauble) Sleeth, both now deceased. Her father was born in West Virginia.

The young couple began their domestic life upon the old home farm which Mr. Sickels cultivated for four years. They then removed to Rooks county, Kansas, where he homesteaded a claim and proved it up. For six years he carried on farming there and then returned to Taylor county, where he has since lived. Here he purchased eighty acres, upon which he now makes his home, the place at that time having but slight improvements upon it, including a small house. He recognized its possibilities, however, and at once began diligently to till the soil and carry on the work of general advancement along the lines of progressive farming. From time to time he has added to his holdings as his financial resources have permitted and now has three farms with good improvements upon them. On two of these he has erected large and commodious barns and has otherwise kept up the work of general progress. He tills the soil in the cultivation of grain and he also raises and feeds stock, fattening from two to three carloads of cattle and two to three carloads of hogs each year. On his home place he has erected a substantial two-story residence in modern architectural style, has also built a good barn, a double crib and a wagon house. He has likewise set out an orchard and made the farm one of the most attractive features in the landscape.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Sickels have been born eleven children: E. G., who is married and follows farming in Worth county, Missouri; Guy, who is married and cultivates one of his father's farms; John, who is married and is also operating a tract of land belonging to his father; Frank, who is married and lives with his father on the home place; Challie and Glen, both at home; Gertie, the wife of C. E. Rusco, a farmer of Jefferson township; Alice, the wife of John Gold, also an agriculturist; Clara, the wife of O. T. Campbell, a resident farmer of Taylor county; Ina, the wife of Arthur Wisdom, also a farmer; and Maggie, at home.

While Mr. Sickels usually votes the republican ticket and is loyal to the interests of the party, he casts an independent ballot at local elections, where no party issue is involved. He is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Athelstan and of the Modern Woodmen camp. Almost his entire life has been spent in this county and he has aided in its development as one of its active men and progressive citizens. The secret of his own success is found in his earnest and indefatigable labor and his example may well serve to encourage others who must depend upon their own resources. In this land where advancement is not hampered by caste or class progress eventually follows persistent purpose and intelligently directed industry and it has been through those means that Homer W. Sickels has become one of the men of affairs in his part of the county.

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#### GILBERT H. DUCKETT.

The agricultural interests of Taylor county find a worthy representative in Gilbert H. Duckett, who has devoted his entire life to that line of activity and in the tilling of the soil is meeting with most gratifying success. Born near Burlington, Racine county, Wisconsin, on the 27th of October, 1866, he is a son of



Noah and Amelia (Heath) Duckett, the former of whom is now deceased. The mother was born and reared in Somersetshire, England, her birth occurring in 1837, and on coming to the United States she located in Wisconsin, where she gave her hand in marriage to Noah Duckett. There the eldest children were born and the family continued to make their home in that state until 1876, in which year they came to Iowa, locating in Taylor county, where the father purchased a tract of wild land, to the transformation and development of which he devoted the remainder of his life. His wife still survives and makes her home upon that farm. She is the mother of two sons and four daughters, the brother of our subject being Fred Duckett, a resident of Canada. The sisters are as follows: Anna, the wife of Charles Boydon, a farmer of Grove township; Jessie, who wedded Dwight Parks, of Oregon City, Oregon; Susie, the wife of Roy Goodlaxson, who engages in farming in Gay township; and May, who resides on the old homestead with her mother and brother.

Gilbert H. Duckett, whose name introduces this review, was a little lad of ten years when he came with his parents to Taylor county, and was here reared to manhood, acquiring his education in the district schools near his home. Amid the busy activities of rural life he spent the period of his boyhood and youth, assisting his father in the arduous task of opening up a new farm, and as the years passed and his strength increased he aided more and more largely in the work of development, the lessons which he learned concerning the value of industry, energy and integrity, and the thorough and practical experience which he gained forming an excellent foundation upon which to rear the superstructure of future success.

Upon attaining his majority Mr. Duckett took up the management of the home farm, which had been left to his widowed mother, and has since devoted himself to the conduct of her business affairs. The homestead, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres of land, located on section 20, Grove township, had already been brought under a good state of cultivation through the well-directed efforts of his father, and under his wise and careful management has now become one of the valuable and desirable farming properties of the township. He has been most successful in his agricultural pursuits, and as he has prospered has been able to invest in more land, being now the owner of another farm of one hundred and sixty acres located on section 29, near the old home. This has been well fenced and tilled and has become a highly improved property, and is a source of gratifying profit to its owner. He carries on general farming, and in this connection also engages extensively in the stock business, raising and feeding a large quantity of cattle, hogs and sheep annually, for which he receives excellent prices in the market. Progressive and up-to-date in his methods, he has displayed fine business ability in the conduct of his various affairs and is numbered among the successful, substantial and representative business men of the community.

Politically Mr. Duckett gives his allegiance to the democratic party, but the honors and emoluments of office have had no attraction for him as he prefers to concentrate his energies upon the conduct of his business interests. He has never been unmindful, however, of his duties as a citizen but is most public-spirited and thoroughly appreciates his obligations to his fellowmen. A man of exemplary habits, his unquestioned integrity, honorable principles and upright manhood have



won for him the confidence, esteem and admiration of all with whom he has been brought in contact, and Grove township numbers him among her most valued and respected citizens.

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### JOHN J. KNOX.

John J. Knox, a prominent and successful farmer and stock raiser of Grant township, extensively known throughout Taylor county as the proprietor of the Hog Branch Stock Farm, is also entitled to mention in this volume because of his activity in community affairs and also because of the fact that as a soldier he rendered valuable aid to the Union during the dark days of the Civil war. A native of Pennsylvania, his birth occurred in Juniata county on the 22d of March, 1843, a son of Thomas L. and Sophia H. (Leonard) Knox, natives of New York and Pennsylvania, respectively. The father, however, was reared and married in the latter state, and later removed to Illinois, locating upon a farm in Bureau county.

Upon his father's farm in Illinois John J. Knox was reared to manhood, acquiring his education in the district schools near his home and during the periods of vacation devoting his time to the work of the fields. He early became familiar with the tasks that fall to the lot of the country lad and remained under the parental roof, giving his father the benefit of his assistance, until the year 1863, when he responded to his country's call for aid and enlisted in Company I, Ninety-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry. With this regiment he went south and joined Sherman, under whom he participated in the engagements at Dalton, Georgia; Altoona Pass; Savannah, Columbia and Bentonville, and later took part in the Atlanta campaign. He served until the close of the war and then marched north through Richmond and on to Washington, where he participated in the grand review, the greatest military pageant ever held in this country. He was then sent to Parkersburg, West Virginia, and thence to Louisville, Kentucky, doing guard duty, and subsequently returned to Springfield, Illinois, where he was honorably discharged in August, 1865. During his term of enlistment, he was a brave and fearless soldier and lost but little time through sickness.

When his country no longer needed his services, Mr. Knox returned home, where he remained for a time, and later took a trip to Iowa to look over some land which an uncle had previously entered. His stay in the Hawkeye State, however, was brief and upon his return to Illinois he took up agricultural pursuits in Bureau county, being thus engaged for about two years. In 1868, in company with his parents, he again came to Iowa, where he has since continued to reside and where his father and mother both spent their remaining days. He purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Grant township, Taylor county, which he at once began to break and convert into productive fields. The soil was naturally rich and fertile and in the course of time was brought under a high state of cultivation, annually yielding abundant harvests which proved a source of most gratifying revenue to him. As he prospered in his







JOHN J. KNOX



MRS. JOHN J. KNOX





undertaking he was able to add to his original purchase from time to time until today he is one of the extensive landowners of the township. His home farm, which is known as the Hog Branch Stock Farm, consists of four hundred acres, all well improved, constituting one of the finest farming properties in the district. He has built good fences, set out a large orchard and grove, and has equipped the place with all modern conveniences and accessories for facilitating labor. In the midst of the farm he has erected a beautiful up-to-date dwelling and in the rear are substantial barns and outbuildings, all of which stand as monuments to his enterprise and thrift. He also owns three other farms, one of one hundred and twenty acres, another eighty acres and another forty acres in Grant township, which are also highly cultivated, and owns a half interest in a one hundred and sixty acre farm in Kansas. He carries on general agricultural pursuits and in addition does an extensive business in raising and feeding horses, cattle and hogs, making a specialty of heavy draft horses. His stock is all of very high grade and is known throughout Taylor county, commanding ready sales and excellent prices on the market. His annual receipts amount to a very handsome figure inasmuch as both branches of his business—his farming and his stock-raising interests—are proving very remunerative.

In 1870, after he had thoroughly established himself in business, Mr. Knox returned to Bureau county, Illinois, where, on the 30th of December of that year, he was united in marriage to Miss Lucy E. Sargent, a native of Enfield, New Hampshire, who was reared in Illinois. Unto that union have been born three sons and four daughters, who are as follows: Elbert P., a farmer of Grant township; Howard L., also engaged in agricultural pursuits in this township; John C., who resides at home; Clara, who is also at home with her father; Blanche, the wife of Daniel Bruner, a resident farmer of Grant township; Dora, who married G. L. Harvey, of the same township; and Nellie, still under the parental roof. In March, 1905, the wife and mother was called to her final rest, her remains being interred in Clearfield Cemetery. Her death was the occasion of deep grief not only to the bereaved family but also to a number of warm friends, for she was a lady of excellent traits of character, who commanded the respect of all with whom she came in contact. She was an earnest Christian woman and throughout her residence in this locality held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, to which all of her children also belong with the exception of one.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, Mr. Knox has given stalwart allegiance to the democracy and has been called upon to fill various public positions. At different times he has been elected to the office of township trustee, his first term covering eight years, while he is now serving in that capacity, his present term having continued for four years. He has served as a delegate to county and state conventions and at different times has been identified with the school board, the cause of education finding in him a warm champion. He belongs to the Grand Army post at Clearfield, and through his membership therein keeps up pleasant relations with his old army comrades. Although he has passed many of his fellowmen on the highway to success, yet his prosperity has been honestly won, his integrity being above question and the methods employed being honorable at all times. During the forty years of his



residence in Grant township he has been an interested witness to the steady and continuous growth which has been going on within its borders, and in the work of improvement and development he has done his full share, doing all in his power to further those movements which have for their object the substantial progress and upbuilding of the community.

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### GEORGE REECE.

A highly cultivated and well improved farm of two hundred acres, situated in Ross township, has been the home of George Reece since the fall of 1905, he having purchased the property the previous year. He is a native son of Taylor county, his birth having occurred on a farm, August 6, 1871. His father, R. M. Reece, was born in Indiana, and was a lad of eleven years when he came to Iowa, his first home in this state being in Louisa county, where he was reared and educated. He then located in Taylor county and was here married to Margaret Swaim. He opened up a farm here, which he cultivated until 1882, when he disposed of his interests here and went to Gentry county, Missouri, but in 1901 removed to Clay county, Illinois, where he still resides. At the time of the Civil war he enlisted for three years' service, joining Company I, of the Eleventh Iowa Regiment in Louisa county.

George Reece, whose name introduces this review, was a lad of eleven years when he was taken by his parents to Gentry county, Missouri, so that he was practically reared in that state, where he acquired his education in the common schools. He remained under the parental roof until he had reached mature years, when he started out to make his own way in the world by working on a farm for two years. He was subsequently married in Taylor county, to Miss Eva May Spencer, their marriage ceremony being celebrated February 20, 1895. Mrs. Reece was born in Missouri but was reared in Taylor county. Her father, Andrew Spencer, now makes his home in Bedford.

Following his marriage Mr. Reece located in Ross township on a rented farm, which he cultivated two and a half years. During this time, owing to his own hard labor and the assistance of his estimable wife, he saved the money which enabled him at the end of that time to purchase eighty acres. Removing to that place he farmed it for two years and then disposed of the farm and invested his money in one hundred and sixty acres in the same township. After an ownership of two years, he disposed of that property at a good profit, after which he rented the Beard farm in Ross township, operating the same three years, but in the meantime, he purchased and sold two farms and in this manner made a nice sum of money. In 1904, he purchased the farm upon which he now lives, but did not take up his abode thereon until the following year, in 1905. He at once undertook the task of improving the place, repaired and added to the buildings, fenced the fields, rebuilt the barn and built a granary and now has an excellent set of farm buildings. His place comprises two hundred acres situated on section 1, Ross township. He is busily occupied in carrying on general farming and also breeds and deals in Aberdeen Angus cattle and Poland

China hogs. He is watchful of every opportunity pointing to success and the fine farm property of which he is today the possessor is an evidence that his efforts have been richly rewarded.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Reece has been blessed with two daughters and a son: Geneva Gale, Ava Agnes and John S. Politically Mr. Reece is a democrat and has filled some township offices including that of clerk, road commissioner and township trustee, in the latter of which he has served two terms, being the present incumbent. He takes great pleasure in travel, some of his more enjoyable trips being to Portland, Oregon, and to the Yellowstone National Park. He is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Bedford.

Starting out in life empty-handed, Mr. Reece has won creditable success, standing today among the representative farmers and progressive citizens of Taylor county, where the greater part of his life has been spent. He is therefore well known and all have for him the utmost respect and good will.

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#### NELSON CORNELIUS SCOTT.

Nelson Cornelius Scott, one of the successful farmers of Holt township, was born on the farm on which he now lives, April 2, 1856. His father, Cornelius Nelson Scott, was born in Ohio but reared in Indiana, and in 1852, came to Taylor county, Iowa, where he entered forty acres of government land. On this he commenced farming and improved the place and as the years brought rich returns for his toils he added to it until he owned two hundred acres at the time of his death. He was one of the first settlers of the county and struggled through many hardships which might have been discouraging to others. He was a republican in his political views and played an important part in the councils of his party and in the public life of his community. When he died in 1891, in his sixty-ninth year, the conditions he had known when he came to this locality had entirely passed away, and he had the satisfaction of feeling that the progress was in no small measure due to his efforts. His wife, who had been Miss Elizabeth Dunkin in her maidenhood, was born in Indiana, where they were married, and she died in 1881 at the age of fifty-two. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was the mother of nine children, only three of whom are now living: Nelson Cornelius, of this sketch; Mrs. Hodge, of Holt township; and Mrs. Morrison, of Washington township.

Nelson Cornelius Scott was reared on his present farm, which has always been his home and under the guidance of his parents received those invaluable lessons for life which amply supplemented the instruction he obtained in the little district school. Reared to the pursuits of an agriculturist, he chose that vocation for his own when the time came that he should assume the responsibilities of his own life. He has seen his industrious toil rewarded richly and to the two hundred acres which he inherited from his father has been able to add eighty more, so that his is a tract of good size and high value. On it he pursues a general line of agriculture, employing up-to-date methods in his work and spar-



ing no effort to attain to the success which he believes to be his birthright and indeed that of everyone who it willing to work for it.

On the 25th of March, 1878, Mr. Scott was united in marriage with Miss Laura Combs, a native of Mound City, Missouri, and a daughter of John and Sarah Combs, both deceased. Mrs. Scott died March 9, 1909, and is survived by six of her seven children. They are: Dora, deceased, who was the wife of Frank Chapell; Myrtie, the wife of Jule Demangue, a farmer of Nebraska; Theresa, who is the widow of Oliver Landers, and makes her home with her father; Esther, who is the wife of Arthur Welch and they also live with Mr. Scott; William, who married Miss Rose Still and lives on his father's farm; Walter, who wedded Miss Vina Nott and is an agriculturist of Holt township; and Fannie, who is at home.

The family are members of the Christian church, with which Mr. Scott is officially connected. He is a stanch supporter of the republican party and has not been inconspicuous in local affairs, for he is serving his second term as township trustee and for nine years has been one of the school directors. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons and the Modern Woodmen and attends the meetings of these lodges in Gravity. Successful in his own private affairs and careful in the execution of the duties placed upon him by his fellow citizens, he is a man of whom account must be taken in appraising the power of the farming community of Holt township.

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#### OSCAR G. BROWN.

Oscar G. Brown, a successful farmer and stock-raiser of Mason township, has resided on his present farm of eighty acres since the 1st of March, 1906. He was born in Van Buren county, Iowa, on the 16th of October, 1868, a son of Francis M. and Susan E. (Schiveley) Brown. William Brown, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was born in 1812 and came to Taylor county in 1869 as one of its pioneer settlers. In early manhood he wedded Miss Emily Malone, by whom he had the following children: Mrs. Williams, Benjamin, Robert D., William, Francis M., Mrs. C. H. Harriman, Stephen and Wise. Four of the number were soldiers of the Civil war, including the father of our subject. Benjamin, who was a member of the One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, was killed in battle; Robert D., who was a member of the Seventeenth Iowa Regiment, was held a prisoner by the rebels for several months; and William died in a hospital. The maternal grandparents of our subject had seven children, namely: Susan E., John, Charles, Mary, Kate, Annie and Lizzie.

Francis M. Brown, the father of Oscar G., was a stalwart defender of the Union, being a member of Company A, Nineteenth Regiment of Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He likewise came to this county in 1869 as one of its early settlers and has been successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career. He makes his home in Mason township and his upright and honorable life has won him the confidence and esteem of all with whom he has been associated.



Oscar G. Brown obtained his education in the schools of Mason township and of New Market, there pursuing his studies until he had attained the age of nineteen years. Early in life he became familiar with the duties and labors which fall to the lot of the agriculturist through the assistance which he rendered his father in the cultivation of the home place and after putting aside his text-books, he continued to aid in the work of the old homestead farm until he had attained his majority. He then began operating a forty-acre tract of land and subsequently purchased a farm of eighty acres, in the cultivation and improvement of which he was successfully engaged for a number of years. On disposing of the property he bought his present place of eighty acres on section 8, Mason township, and has here since carried on both farming and stock-raising with excellent results. The property is equipped with all of the improvements and accessories of a model farm of the twentieth century, and in his undertakings Mr. Brown is meeting with a well earned and creditable measure of prosperity.

On the 3d of March, 1892, in Mason township, Mr. Brown was united in marriage to Miss Alice Strode, a daughter of William and Rachel (Wimmer) Strode. Her father was a well known agriculturist of Mason township.

In his political views Mr. Brown is a stalwart republican and is now serving as a school director, the cause of education finding in him a stanch champion. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church at New Market. He has resided in this county throughout practically his entire life and, owing to his upright and honorable career, the circle of his friends is almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintances.

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#### GUY LEONARD.

Guy Leonard is a representative of one of Taylor county's pioneer families and is numbered with the progressive farmers of Holt township. He was born on the Daniel Leonard homestead, June 23, 1859, and his boyhood days were spent upon his father's farm where stood the old log house which the father had erected in the fall of 1856. The experiences of pioneer life were vividly impressed upon his mind. He attended the district schools and, remaining under the parental roof, afterward assisted in developing the farm until twenty-one years of age. He then started out in life on his own account and the occupation to which he was reared furnished him further employment, for he began cultivating a part of his father's estate. He continued thereon for five years, after which he purchased the farm upon which he now resides. It was a partially improved tract of land but as the years have since gone by he has replaced the old buildings with new and modern ones, has cultivated and developed his fields and it is today one of the finest improved farms of the township. It comprises two hundred and forty acres of rich land, all under a high state of cultivation. Aside from general farming on his own behalf Mr. Leonard is associated with his father and brothers in the firm of Daniel Leonard & Sons, pioneer importers and breeders of Shropshire sheep. In this connection they do an extensive business and have done much to improve the grade of sheep raised in this part of the state.



On the 15th of March, 1880, Mr. Leonard was united in marriage to Miss Anna Ditto, who was born in Mercer county, Illinois, May 11, 1857, and is a daughter of A. J. and Ellen (Wright) Ditto, natives of Ohio and later residents of Illinois. The father is now deceased but the mother is still living and resides in Henderson county, Illinois. Mrs. Leonard was one of a family of seven children. The others are: Bert and Leonard, who are residents of Kansas; Budd, who is living in Oquaka, Illinois; J. W., whose home is in Conway, Iowa; Mrs. John Wheatley, of Nevada, Missouri; and Mrs. John Duvall, of Gladstone, Illinois. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Leonard have been born eight children, as follows: Jennie, the wife of Marion Cramer, of Holt township; Nettie, keeping house for her grandfather; Alta, who wedded Wilbert Hurd, of Greene county, Iowa; Minnie, Ina, Sarah and Dan, all still under the parental roof; and Lydia, who passed away at the age of one year.

In his political views Mr. Leonard is a republican and fraternally is a member of the Woodmen of the World, connected with the camp at Corning, Iowa. He is one of Taylor county's most progressive and enterprising farmers, winning success by reason of his close application, earnest purpose and indefatigable energy. Having spent his entire life in this county he is widely and favorably known and is worthy of the highest regard of a large circle of friends and business associates.

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#### ALLIE E. PULLEN.

Allie E. Pullen, a farmer and stockman of New Market, Taylor county, Iowa, owns eighty acres of land in Dallas township. He was born July 7, 1875, in Illinois, and is a son of Albert and Marjory (White) Pullen. His father, who was born in Indiana in 1850, was one of two sons and two daughters, the children of John Pullen and his wife, Joseph, Elmira, and Luella being his brother and sisters. Marjory White was the daughter of David and Charlotte (Williams) White, and was born in Pennsylvania in 1852. She was the eldest of nine children, the other members of the family being David, Joseph, James, Sarah, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Mary Ann and Minerva. Albert Pullen came to Page county, Iowa, in 1877, and subsequently moved to Taylor county, which has been his home ever since. He is a farmer and has achieved success in his life work. To Mr. and Mrs. Albert Pullen were born twelve children: Allie, John, Charlie, James, Jesse, Willie, Sylvester, Silas, Taphan, Dovie, Cora and Marjory.

Allie E. Pullen, the second in order of birth, was but two years of age when his parents came to the state of Iowa. He received such education as the schools of his locality could give during the few months they were in session, and he assisted with the work on his father's farm from the days of his boyhood. He has lived for the last seven years upon his present farm, and points with pride to the various buildings on the place, all modern structures which he built himself. The land, which is rich and productive, supports well the general line of farming Mr. Pullen carries on, and also affords pasturage for the stock that of late years has commanded more and more of his attention and time.

On the 2d of March, 1892, Mr. Pullen was united in marriage to Miss Nellie Combs, who was born in this county, July 30, 1876, and is a daughter of Burr and Lucretia Ann (Painter) Combs. The father, who is a son of Jacob Combs, was born in Virginia in 1839. In his family were eight children: Nellie, Charlie, George, Floyd, Ned, Cora, Lizzie and Osie. The mother, who before her marriage was Lucretia Ann Painter, was the daughter of Jacob and Ruth Painter, and one of a family of six children: George, John, Nettie, Melissa and Sarah, being the others. Mrs. Combs was born in 1850 in Ohio and was twenty years of age when she came to live in Taylor county.

When called to exercise his franchise Mr. Pullen gives his vote to the republican candidate as the choice of the party with whose principles he is in closest accord. He enjoys fraternal relations with the New Market lodge of the Knights of Pythias and is an ardent supporter of the ideals held up by this organization. Although he frequently attends the meetings of the lodge, he devotes the greater share of his time to the work of his farm and to his stock. The day's toil is hard but it is to his liking and he feels requited by the fair competence that is his now.

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#### GEORGE H. MATHEWS.

George H. Mathews, who since 1894 has resided in Mason township upon a farm of one hundred and thirty-six acres, which he owns and cultivates, was born in Kentucky, October 17, 1853. He is a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Flynn) Mathews. The paternal grandfather was James Mathews and the family originated in England, whence representatives of the name came to America about a century ago. Mrs. Elizabeth Mathews had two brothers, John and Will Flynn, who were soldiers of the Civil war, connected however with the opposing forces.

George H. Mathews pursued his early education in the schools of Kentucky and afterward continued his studies in Tennessee until he reached the age of eighteen years, when he permanently put aside his text-books. In the meantime he had assisted his father in the operation of the home farm and after another year spent under the parental roof he left home and established a trading business at Raytown, Greene county, Tennessee. In 1875, however, he began farming on his own account and through the succeeding seven years engaged in the cultivation of various rented farms. During that period he carefully saved his earnings until the sum was sufficient to enable him to purchase land and he made investment in a farm on which he resided for eight years. In 1891, however, he left the south and came to Iowa, where he again cultivated a rented farm for three years, on the expiration of which period, in 1894, he purchased the property upon which he now resides, comprising one hundred and thirty-six acres of rich and arable land in Mason township. He has brought his fields under a high state of cultivation and in connection with general farming he raises horses, cattle, mules and hogs, his live stock interests being important sources of revenue to him. He has made all of the improvements upon the place, including the erection of a commodious modern residence built in an attractive style of archi-



ecture. He also possesses much mechanical ingenuity and is the inventor of an adjustable vehicle thills which he has patented.

On the 23d of July, 1875, Mr. Mathews was married in Tennessee to Miss Mary Jane McNees, a daughter of Elihu and Arie Emeline (Hayes) McNees. Her paternal grandfather was Samuel McNees, a brother of Governor McNees. The family originated in Great Britain but has long been represented in this country. Jacob, Henry and Elihu McNees, sons of Samuel McNees, served in the Civil war and Henry died on the field of battle.

Mr. and Mrs. Mathews attend the Methodist church and are greatly esteemed because of their many excellent traits of character. In his political allegiance Mr. Mathews is a thorough republican, doing all in his power to promote the growth and insure the success of the party. He is serving as township trustee and was school director for four years. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons and in his life exemplifies the beneficent spirit of the craft.

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#### E. M. BURWELL.

A finely improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, located in Washington township, is the home of E. M. Burwell, who is engaged in general farming and stockraising, making a specialty, however, of the latter business. He was born February 11, 1863, in Crawford county, Ohio, and was a little lad of three years when he was brought by his parents, Joseph and Sarah (Eby) Burwell, to Linn county, Iowa. Later the family removed to Page county, where the parents still live. They were likewise natives of the Buckeye state, the father being a son of William Burwell, while the mother is a daughter of Peter Eby. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Burwell were born six sons and three daughters, the brothers and sisters of our subject being: Elmer, Alonzo, Ida, Emma, Lewis, Orlando, Carrie and Alden.

E. M. Burwell of this review was reared to farming and has followed that occupation as a life work. At the age of twenty-four years he established a home of his own by his marriage on the 16th of October, 1887, to Miss Kitty Eby, who was born in Crawford county, Ohio, in 1867, and, being left an orphan, was reared by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Eby, the maternal grandparents of Mr. Burwell. At the time of Mr. Burwell's marriage he had but fifty cents in money but with the added responsibility of supporting a family he began his work with renewed energy and through his own labors and the assistance of his estimable wife at length accumulated the funds that enabled him about six years ago to become the possessor of his present farm property, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of land in Washington township. He has made some improvements on the place and has also brought the fields under a good state of cultivation and now has one of the valuable properties of his section of Taylor county. He raises some grain but his time is given more particularly to the raising of cattle, horses and hogs, and in this work he is meeting with very creditable success.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Burwell has been born one daughter, Orpha, whose birth occurred December 19, 1888. She is now the wife of Charles Lock, their



marriage being celebrated on the 23d of December, 1908. Mr. Burwell gives his political support to the democratic party but has never sought nor desired public office. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist church. Since starting out in life for himself Mr. Burwell has had to face many difficulties but his determination has enabled him to overcome every obstacle in his path and work his way upward until he now finds a place among the substantial farmers of Taylor county—a position that is well merited and richly deserved.

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A. T. WEST, M. D.

Prominent among the medical practitioners of Iowa and Taylor county may be mentioned Dr. A. T. West, who has practiced his profession in Conway for the past thirty-two years, and he is therefore widely and favorably known in this section of the state. He is a native son of this state, his birth having occurred in Knoxville, on the 9th of April, 1854. He was reared in the place of his nativity and there acquired his literary education, completing his studies in Knoxville Academy when a youth of eighteen years. The medical profession appealing strongly to him, to that end he entered Bennett Eclectic Medical College at Chicago, being graduated from that institution in May, 1874. He then located for practice in Derby, Iowa, where he continued three years, but believing that Conway offered much better opportunities for his practice, he then removed to this place and has here continued to the present time, covering a period of about thirty-two years. At that time this place was a mere hamlet but in the years that have since come and gone it has grown to an enterprising and thriving little city and with the increase in population Dr. West's practice has likewise increased, so that he now has a very large and lucrative patronage. His services, however, are not only confined to this city but are in demand over a large area of country and he has come to be the loved family physician in numerous households in this section. While the Doctor does a general practice, he makes a specialty of diseases of the lungs, throat and heart. He owns his own office, which is a neat structure of brick and also has erected a fine residence, his being one of the commodious and substantial homes of this city. In addition to his practice the Doctor is also interested in other industries, one of which is a livery business, which he has conducted with the assistance of others, for the past eighteen years and in this he has been very successful. He is also a stockholder and a director of the Conway Savings Bank and owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, a mile east of Conway, which brings him a good rental.

Dr. West was married in Derby, Iowa, October 17, 1876, the lady of his choice being Miss Emma Oehlman, who was born and reared there. Their marriage has been blessed with two daughters, but Frances died at the age of seventeen years. The surviving daughter is Anna, now the wife of Nolan Edwards, a resident of Macon, Missouri.

Politically a republican, the Doctor casts an independent ballot at local elections, while his fraternal relations are with the Odd Fellows. He first joined



the lodge at Derby, Iowa, but now holds membership in the lodge at Conway, in which he has served through all the chairs and is now past grand. He has committed to memory the entire ritual of this organization. Both he and his wife are members of the Rebekah lodge and in this he has also served through the chairs and is now past grand and also for several years served as district deputy. Mrs. West has been sent as a delegate to the grand assembly on several occasions. He is also equally prominent in the Modern Woodmen order, and the Brotherhood of American Yeoman, having served as correspondent in the latter for twelve years. Mrs. West is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Interested in all public movements and measures, Dr. West served as treasurer of the town board for six years, in which connection he rendered honest and efficient service. Dr. West, however, does not neglect his professional duties but keeps in close touch with the advancement that is being made in this direction through his membership in the Southwestern Iowa Medical Society and in the Taylor County Medical Society. He may well be termed a pioneer physician of Conway and during the thirty-two years in which he has practiced here he has adhered to a high standard of professional ethics, which has won him the unqualified regard of his fellow practitioners, while the skill and ability which he has displayed has gained him a liberal patronage from the general public. And not only has he held to high ideas in his profession but as well in citizenship and in social relations, thus commanding the warm esteem and genuine admiration of all with whom he comes in contact.

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#### KENDRICK UTTER.

Kendrick Utter, an enterprising and substantial agriculturist and stock raiser of Grant township, is the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of rich and arable land, eighty acres of which constitute his home place on section 14. He is likewise numbered among the early settlers of Taylor county, having taken up his abode within its borders in 1875. His birth occurred in Madison county, New York, on the 17th of December, 1852, his father being Palmer Utter, who was likewise born and reared in the Empire State. His mother bore the maiden name of Julia Mann. Palmer Utter was actively identified with general agricultural pursuits in New York and in that state all of his children were born. In 1855 he removed westward to Iowa, settling in Louisa county, where he opened up and developed a farm, to the cultivation and improvement of which he gave his attention throughout the remainder of his life. Subsequent to the death of his first wife he was again married, his second union being with Caroline Thorpe.

Kendrick Utter, who was but three years of age when he accompanied his parents on their removal to this state, remained on his father's farm in Louisa county until he was married at the age of twenty-two years. In 1875 he came to Taylor county, taking up his abode on the farm where he now resides on section 14, Grant township. He first purchased and broke a tract of forty acres of raw land and erected thereon a small house, in which he made his home for several years. Subsequently he bought another forty-acre tract adjoining and later added



MR. AND MRS. KENDRICK UTTER





to his landed holdings by purchasing forty acres in another section. He also owns a half section of land in Canada. On his home farm he has erected a commodious and substantial residence and a large barn and also planted a grove and orchard, setting out peach and apple trees. The attractiveness of the place is greatly enhanced by evergreen and ornamental trees. Mr. Utter has a wind-pump on each of his farms and his neat and well improved property is the visible evidence of his life of well-directed industry and perseverance. In addition to cultivating the various cereals best adapted to soil and climate he also devotes some attention to the raising and feeding of hogs and likewise conducts a dairy business. As the years have gone by his capable management and energy have brought to him well-earned and justly merited success and he is now widely recognized as a prosperous and representative citizen of the community.

On the 10th of March, 1875, in Louisa county, Iowa, Mr. Utter was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth J. Sutherland, who was born, reared and educated in Canada. Prior to her marriage she successfully followed the profession of teaching in that country and also in Louisa county, this state. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Utter was born one child, a son, who died in infancy.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Utter has supported the men and measures of the republican party but has never sought nor desired office as a reward for his fealty, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business affairs. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Baptist church, while his wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church at Clearfield. He has now made his home in this county for more than a third of a century and has lived to see a remarkable transformation as pioneer customs have been replaced by the evidences of a progressive and advanced civilization. Little pioneer homes have been replaced by the commodious and substantial residences built in modern styles of architecture, trees have been planted and the native prairie grasses have been replaced by all the cereals that are cultivated by the farmer today. In all the work of general improvement Mr. Utter has borne his part and well deserves mention in this history.

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### EMERSON J. JOHNSTON.

Emerson J. Johnston, one of the successful farmers of Holt township, was born in Jasper county, Iowa, April 15, 1861, and is a son of Hermanus H. Johnston, whose sketch appears in another part of this volume. He received his education in the district schools, while he obtained practical instruction in the conduct of agricultural work at home under the wise guidance of his father, who had learned the road to success. At the age of twenty-four he married and engaged in the business of life for himself. Now he owns one hundred and sixty acres of land, well improved and under a fine state of cultivation. Here he follows general farming with profit to himself and to the advantage of the community, for he is progressive in his methods and unsparing in his industry.

On the 22d of February, 1885, Mr. Johnston wedded Miss Mary Richardson, who was born in Keokuk county, Iowa, and is a daughter of Benjamin F. and



Lila (Runnels) Richardson. The father was one of the early settlers of Taylor county, and when the Civil war was in progress he was one of her loyal sons who flocked to the defense of their country. He is now living in retirement in Gravity. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnston: W. F., Mattie, May, Hazel E., J. M., Emma May and Lila Winnefred, all at home. Mrs. Johnston and her two older daughters are members of the Christian church. Mr. Johnston has always given his support politically to the republican party, in whose platform he places the greatest faith, and while not an office seeker has served as a school director for ten years. He recently resigned that position, however, and is devoting himself entirely to the cultivation of his fields. Abundant harvests tell with what return his efforts have met, for his crops are as large as any that could be reaped from the same amount of land.

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#### GREEN CHANEY.

Green Chaney, a well-known agriculturist and stock-raiser of Platte township, owns and operates a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 23. He was born in Greene county, Illinois, on the 12th of June, 1838, but in early life was brought by his parents to Mason county, that state, where he was reared. After the death of his father he and the other children of the family took charge of the home farm and cared for the mother until she, too, was called to her final rest.

On the 1st of September, 1861, Green Chaney wedded Miss Martha Short, likewise a native of Greene county, Illinois, and continued to reside on the old homestead place where he was reared. His wife passed away about a year after their marriage and on the 27th of December, 1865, he wedded Miss Mary C. Kelley, who was a native of Tennessee but was reared in Mason county, Illinois, from the age of twelve years. A few years later he took up his abode in Dewitt county, Illinois, where he purchased a farm and remained for a period of twenty-three years, devoting his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits with excellent success. In November, 1890, he disposed of the property and came to Taylor county, Iowa, purchasing a farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 23, Platte township. The place was badly run down but he set resolutely to work, added to and remodeled the house, erected a large barn and good outbuildings and in fact carried on the work of improvement and cultivation until the property is now lacking in none of the equipments and accessories of a model farm of the twentieth century. The farm is divided into fields of convenient size by well kept fences and the attractiveness of the place is greatly enhanced by a fine grove and orchard. Mr. Chaney has extended the boundaries of his farm by an additional purchase of forty acres and now owns a quarter section of rich and productive land, which returns to him a gratifying annual income. In addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate, he is also engaged in the raising and feeding of stock, breeding shorthorn cattle on quite an extensive scale. The son now carries on the business.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Chaney have been born three children. C. E. Chaney, the eldest, who makes his home near New Orleans, is a railroad agent for the Illinois Central Railway Company. Albert M., who conducts the home farm, is a breeder and dealer in shorthorn cattle, now having a herd of about thirty, with a full blooded male at the head. He is an alert and energetic young man and is widely recognized as a successful and enterprising citizen. Sally E., the youngest child of our subject, is the wife of J. O. Shawler, who resides at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Politically Mr. Chaney is a stalwart advocate of the principles of the democracy but has never sought nor desired office as a reward for his party fealty. While a resident of Dewitt county, however, he served as road supervisor. Both he and his wife are devoted members of the Baptist church at Clearfield, while fraternally he is identified with the Masonic lodge at Lenox. His son, Albert M., is a Master Mason and belongs to the blue lodge at Clearfield. Green Chaney has now passed the seventy-first milestone on life's journey and receives the respect and veneration which should ever be accorded one who has traveled thus far on this earthly pilgrimage and whose career has been at all times upright and honorable. He is well and favorably known throughout the community in which he has resided for the past eighteen years and the circle of his friends is almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintances.

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#### JOHN C. F. REED.

John C. F. Reed who devotes his time and energies to the pursuits of farming and stock-raising, is the owner of a valuable and well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 26, Platte township, where he resides, and also has a tract of forty acres in another section. He is numbered among the worthy native sons of Iowa, his birth having occurred in Union county, this state, on the 26th of May, 1863. His father, J. H. Reed, was born, reared and married in Ohio. In 1852 he made the overland trip to California, spending about two years in the gold mines of that state. His wife passed away while he was in the west and after returning from the Pacific coast he made his way to Union county, Iowa, about 1855. There he opened up a new farm, gradually transforming the once barren land into a rich and productive property. Subsequently he disposed of the place and came to Taylor county, where he spent the remainder of his life, his demise occurring in 1885 when he was sixty-nine years of age. He owned six hundred acres of valuable land in this county and was long numbered among its most prosperous, enterprising and representative citizens. While a resident of Union county he married Miss Demaris Bliss, who was born in the east but was reared in that county. She survived her husband for eight years. By his first wife J. H. Reed had one son, J. H. Jr., who now follows farming in Adams county, Iowa. By his second marriage he had five sons and seven daughters, those still living being: John C. F., of this review; William, a prominent agriculturist of Taylor county; Truman, a resident of Adair county, Iowa; and David, who lives on the old home place near Lenox.



John C. F. Reed was reared on the home farm in this county, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist through the assistance which he rendered his father in the work of the fields. When twenty-four years of age he left the parental roof and bought the farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 26, Platte township, where he has since resided and in the cultivation and improvement of which he has been busily engaged to the present time. He built a commodious and substantial two-story residence, two large barns and good outbuildings and also planted an orchard and a fine grove of maple trees. In addition to the cultivation of cereals he also raises and feeds hogs and horses, both branches of his business returning to him a gratifying annual income. About 1898 he purchased an additional tract of forty acres in this county and also owns one hundred and sixty acres of pasture land in Ringgold county. As the years have gone by his capable management and energy have brought to him well earned and justly merited success and he is widely recognized as a most progressive and substantial citizen.

On the 19th of December, 1888, in Adams county, Iowa, Mr. Reed was united in marriage to Miss Lenora A. Custer, who was born in Henry county, this state, but was reared in Adams county. They now have a family of six sons and two daughters, as follows: Harry, Alpha E., Ralph E., Glen C., Adis M., Harley O., Mary E. and Helen A. Mr. and Mrs. Reed lost a daughter, Lola E., who died at the age of two years.

In his political views Mr. Reed is a stanch republican and has capably served in the office of road supervisor, while at the present time he is a member of the school board, with which he has been connected for some years. Fraternally he is identified with the Woodmen at Clearfield, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Calvary Methodist Episcopal church, with which his wife is also affiliated. Long a resident of Taylor county, he is widely known within its borders and the substantial qualities which he has displayed in his citizenship and in his business relations have gained him a high place in the regard and good will of his fellow townsmen.

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#### FRANK L. BLAKEMORE.

Frank L. Blakemore, who was formerly actively identified with the farming interests of Jefferson township and Taylor county, has since 1891 lived retired in a nice home in Blockton and is numbered among her best citizens. He is also an honored veteran of the Civil war, giving valiant service to his country during its darkest days. Mr. Blakemore was born in Fayette county, Ohio, on Christmas day of 1842, a son of William H. and Anne (Milliken) Blakemore, the former born in Virginia and the latter a native of the Buckeye state. The father came to Ohio when a young man and locating in Fayette county, there developed a wild tract of land and became one of the substantial farmers of that section of the state. Prominent in public life he served as sheriff of Fayette county, for several years. Eventually, he and his wife removed to Washington Court-house, where Mrs. Blakemore departed this life.



It was on the home farm in Fayette county that Frank L. Blakemore was reared, while his education was acquired in the common schools of the neighborhood. He was a young man of nineteen years, when, in April, 1861, he offered his services to the government, becoming a member of the Twenty-second Ohio Volunteer Regiment, he being the second to enroll his name in that county. After serving with that command for three months he reenlisted as a member of Company C, Fifty-fourth Ohio Regiment, and going south participated in the battle of Shiloh. Later he joined Company A, First Ohio Cavalry, and served with that command until the close of hostilities, doing scouting and picket duty much of the time. He also served as a body guard to General Kilpatrick for a time. He was never absent from the field of duty and made a most creditable military record, being mustered out and honorably discharged at Nashville, Tennessee, in 1865.

Returning from the war, Mr. Blakemore went to his home in Fayette county, where he remained for a time, but in 1866, took up his abode in Iowa. In connection with a brother he purchased two hundred acres of wild land in Jefferson township, Taylor county, and through their united efforts they soon cleared the land and placed it under cultivation. From time to time they added to their landed possessions and at the end of three years divided their interests. Mr. Blakemore of this review then became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres, on which he erected a good substantial residence, barns and other outbuildings and he likewise set out an orchard and made many substantial improvements. He was there engaged in general farming and stock raising for a long period, his annual shipments of stock to the city markets bringing him a good income. In 1891, believing that he was justified in giving up the farm work, Mr. Blakemore sold his farming property and purchased three acres in Blockton, on which he erected a fine home, good barn and otherwise improved the place, making it a comfortable home, and he has since been classed among Blockton's retired residents.

It was on the 3d of July, 1872, in Indianapolis, Indiana, that Mr. Blakemore wedded Miss Anna Dodge, a native of Massachusetts, where she was reared and educated. She engaged in teaching in Indianapolis sometime prior to her marriage. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Blakemore were born three children: Fanny D., the wife of Oriel Morris, by whom she has a daughter, Helen, their home being in Des Moines; Amy P., the wife of George C. Hickenlooper, their home being with Mr. Blakemore; and W. H., a student in St. Joseph Medical College. Mrs. Blakemore is deceased, her death occurring August 3, 1891. She was a devoted Christian woman, being identified with the Presbyterian church in which she was an active worker and teacher in the Sunday-school.

Mr. Blakemore is a republican in politics and is prominent in Masonic circles, becoming a charter member of Platteville lodge but he is now identified with the lodge at Blockton. He has served as master in both organizations. He is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Having resided in Taylor county for forty-three years he has seen the district develop from an unimproved section and has seen Blockton grow from a mere hamlet into a thriving and enterprising business center. He has borne his full share in the work that has here been carried forward and takes a just pride in what has been accom-



plished. He is now surrounded with all the comforts of life and has many warm friends both in Blockton and other sections of Taylor county and all who know him have for him the highest praise and commendation.

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B. F. BROWN.

B. F. Brown, who is familiarly known to many of his friends as Dock, a fact which indicates his personal popularity in the community, is one of the successful and substantial agriculturists of Taylor county, where for thirty years he has been closely identified with business interests as a farmer and carpenter. A native of Indiana, he was born in Wayne county on the 21st of June, 1847, a son of Jacob and Hannah Brown. When a little lad of five years he came to Iowa with his parents, the family home being established in Madison county, and within its borders he was reared to manhood.

During the period of his youth he assisted his father in the arduous task of clearing land and opening up a new farm, and he continued to give his father the benefit of his aid until the latter's death, at which time he started in business for himself. Early in life he had learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed in connection with his agricultural pursuits, at the same time engaging in the manufacture of lumber as an employe in a sawmill. He was thus engaged up to the time of his marriage, after which he farmed in Madison county until 1879.

In that year Mr. Brown traded his property for one hundred and sixty acres of his present farm, located in Marshall township Taylor county, only forty-five acres of which had been broken and put under cultivation. He erected a small frame house and good outbuildings and immediately set about the further development of his farm. Later he purchased an adjoining tract of eighty acres on section 2, so that his present farm consists of two hundred and forty acres on sections 2 and 3, Marshall township. As he has prospered he has introduced many improvements upon the place, remodeled the residence and added new barns, cribs and granaries. When the land came into his possession there was not a tree upon it, but now he has a beautiful grove and orchard of his own planting. His farm today, in its neat and attractive appearance, stands as a monument to his thrift and energy and is one of the valuable and desirable properties of the township. Being naturally of a mechanical turn of mind, he and his sons devote considerable time to carpentering and all are also bricklayers and plasterers. He has carefully and wisely conducted his various business interests and they all combine to make him one of the substantial and prosperous farmers and business men of the township.

On the 15th of February, 1866, in Madison county, Mr. Brown was united in marriage to Miss Sarah See, a native of Henry county, Iowa, who was reared in Madison county. They have three sons and two daughters. The sons all live near the old homestead and the eldest, M. E. Brown, is a carpenter, contractor and builder. Jacob F., is a bricklayer, carpenter and farmer, and Edson E., is a carpenter, bricklayer and housemover. Dora C., the eldest child,

is the wife of W. H. Leno, a farmer of Adams county, while Lizzie L. Wedded E. T. Philpott, of Taylor county. Mrs. Brown and her children are all members of the Seventh Day Advent church, the teachings of which form the guiding influence in their lives.

Mr. Brown's political allegiance has been given to the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He cast his first presidential ballot for U. S. Grant in 1868 and since that time has supported every candidate on that ticket with one exception. He was elected and served for eight consecutive years as township trustee and acted as a member of the school board for some time, the cause of education finding in him a warm champion. Having resided in Taylor county for thirty years, he has been a witness to its growth and development in many lines and has ever been ready to assume his full share in the work of improvement. Genial in disposition, he is familiarly called by his friends—and they are legion—by the name of Dock, which was given to him when a child by a doctor during an epidemic of cholera. His strong and salient characteristics are such as endear him to all who come within the close circle of his friendship, while wherever he is known he is respected and honored.

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#### GEORGE N. REED.

George N. Reed is well known as a prosperous and progressive farmer of Taylor county, owning one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 9, Grove township, but he is also well known in other connections, for he is the propagator of Yellow Dent corn which has gained favor in Iowa as well as in many other states of the Union. He was born in Marion county, Ohio, November 20, 1862, a son of James and Sarah Ann (Dodd) Reed. The former was a native of Delaware, whence he removed with his parents to Ohio, being reared in Marion county. He was married to Miss Sarah Ann Dodd, a native of Delaware, after which he took up his abode in Mahaska county, Iowa, in 1863. He farmed in that district for several years and then removed to Keokuk county, this state, where he followed similar pursuits, while still later he continued his journey westward, locating in Harlan county, Nebraska, where both he and his wife still reside, being hale and hearty at the respective ages of seventy-six and seventy-four years.

George N. Reed, whose name introduces this record, accompanied his parents on their various removals in Iowa and acquired his education in the schools of Mahaska and Keokuk counties. He remained with his father until twenty years of age and a year later, on the 13th of September, 1883, was united in marriage to Miss Florence McFall, who was born and reared in Mahaska county and completed her education in the Oskaloosa schools, after which she followed teaching for some years prior to her marriage.

Following his marriage Mr. Reed located on a farm in Keokuk county, operating rented land for several years. He worked earnestly and persistently and in course of years accumulated a sum of money which justified the purchase of land. He remained in Keokuk county until 1895, when he disposed of his farm-



ing property there and invested his money in one hundred and sixty acres located on section 9, Grove township, Taylor county. On this he erected a commodious two-story residence, a good barn, corn crib, machine shed, and other out-buildings, built fences, set out an orchard and now has a well improved property. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres in Dodge county, Minnesota, and another farm of one hundred and thirty-eight and a half acres in Anoka county, that state, both of which are well improved. In addition to the operation of his home place he also cultivates eighty acres which he rents. For the past five years he has given much attention to the raising of seed corn—improving and breeding the well-known Yellow Dent corn. Its many good qualities have been tested and Mr. Reed has made exhibitions at various state and county fairs and his corn has won many premiums. He has also experimented with winter barley and has raised two crops annually with an average yield of about forty bushels per acre. He also raises Poland China hogs and shorthorn cattle and has held many public sales, his stock always bringing to him good prices.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed are the parents of four sons and two daughters, as follows: Sterling, who is married and resides in Idaho; Jesse, who operates one of his father's farms in Minnesota; Ernest, at home; Earl, who is attending school; Alta, who is keeping house for her brother in Minnesota; and Lois, who expects to become a professional nurse, pursuing her studies in Ainsworth Hospital at St. Joseph, Missouri. They also lost one son, who died in infancy.

Mr. Reed gives his political support to the men and measures whom he deems best qualified for office, regardless of party ties. He has served as a delegate to county conventions and for the past two years has filled the office of justice of the peace. Starting out in life empty-handed he has through his diligence and persistency of purpose and the assistance of his estimable wife worked his way upward until today he is the owner of three well improved farms. He has not only made a success of the occupation which he has made his life work but he is as well a valued citizen, ever studying out new methods and seeking to advance the agricultural interests of Taylor county and other sections of the state.

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#### JAMES McDONALD.

The name of James McDonald is an honored one in Taylor county, not only because of the success which its owner has attained in the business world but also by reason of the high and honorable principles which have ever guided his actions towards his fellowmen. One of Iowa's native sons, he was born in Monroe county on the 24th of February, 1859, and is a son of Michael and Elizabeth (Ludelow) McDonald. The father, who was born in Ireland, came with his parents to America at an early age and was reared in Canada. It was there he was married and four children were born, and he continued to make his home in that country, engaging in agricultural pursuits, until 1857. In that year he came to Iowa, locating in Monroe county, where he opened up a new farm and reared his family. There his death occurred in 1906, his wife having passed away about 1896. Their family consisted of seven sons and five daughters, all



of whom lived to years of maturity, while five sons and two daughters still survive.

On his father's farm in Monroe county James McDonald was reared to manhood, acquiring his education in the district schools near his home, and when a young man removed to Adams county, where he followed agricultural pursuits for a number of years in the capacity of renter. Later he came to Taylor county, purchasing eighty acres of partially improved land in Holt township, to the further development and cultivation of which he directed his efforts for several years. He then purchased four hundred and forty acres on section 22, Grove township, of which he later sold two hundred acres, and on the remaining two hundred and forty acres he has continued to make his home to the present time, bringing his fields under a high state of cultivation. He has a comfortable and attractive residence, has erected two large barns and substantial outbuildings, and on the place there is also a fine machine house. Two large wells, operated by wind power, furnish an excellent supply of water, both for the use of the house and for watering stock, while the place is equipped with all of the conveniences and accessories for facilitating farm labor. Here he carries on general farming, having made a close study of agriculture, and in connection therewith is a large stock dealer, raising and fattening from one to two carloads of cattle and from one hundred to one hundred and fifty hogs annually. He was also successfully engaged in raising Shropshire sheep for many years, and made a specialty of breeding good horses, selling a few very fine specimens each year. His stock was all of a high-grade and was well known throughout the surrounding district, his product commanding excellent prices and ready sale upon the market. As a dealer in stock he became very successful, this branch becoming a very important factor in his business activities and proving a most profitable source of revenue, while in his careful and wise management of all of his various enterprises and in his industry, energy and perseverance, lay the secret of the gratifying degree of prosperity which he today enjoys.

On the 22d of January, 1883, in Adams county, Mr. McDonald was united in marriage to Miss Mary Sullivan, a daughter of Timothy Sullivan, one of the early pioneer settlers of Jasper county, Iowa.

Unto them were born five children, namely: Edward, who is engaged in the manufacture of brick in Oklahoma; Nora, who died at the age of twelve years; James, who assists in operating the home farm; Timothy, also at home; and Mary, who died at the age of three years. The mother of these children passed away in Taylor county, April 12, 1894, and Mr. McDonald was again married June 23, 1898, his second union being with Mary M. O'Connell, a daughter of J. J. O'Connell, of Holt township, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. Six children bless this marriage: Emmett, Paul, Nellie, Francis, Charles and Esther, all under the parental roof.

Politically Mr. McDonald gives stalwart support to the principles of the democratic party, but he has never aspired to public office as the reward for party fealty, preferring to concentrate his efforts upon the conduct of his private business affairs. He has, however, been connected with the schools of the township for a number of years and is at present serving as a member of the school board, doing all in his power to promote the standard of education in his locality.

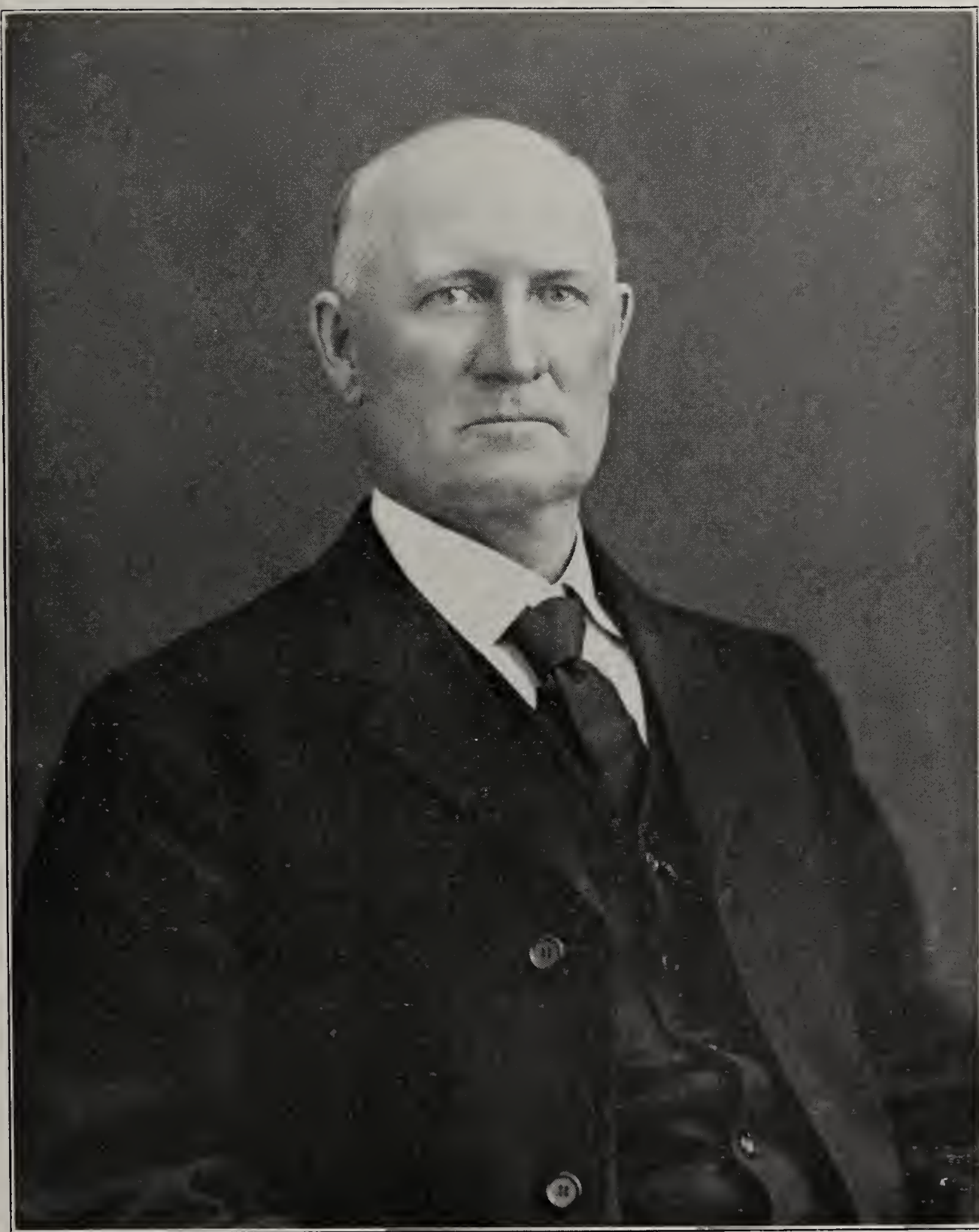


A native of the Hawkeye State, he has watched with interest the work of progress and advancement which has been going on within its borders during the period over which his life record has extended and has witnessed the introduction of many improvements which have served to promote the modern civilization that has so steadily but rapidly replaced the customs of pioneer days in this growing commonwealth. He can remember when the Creston & Hopkins branch of the railroad was built and as a boy of twelve carried water for the graders. He has seen Bedford emerge from villagehood and many of the finest farming properties in Taylor county developed from raw prairie lands, and in this work of transformation he has taken an active part, having, throughout the period of his residence here, been closely identified with the interests of the county, his influence ever being upon the side of progress, advancement and improvement. He is well known throughout the community, being popular with a large circle of warm friends, and his many excellent traits of character have made him honored and respected wherever known.

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#### CLAYTON M. PASCHAL, M. D.

The medical profession of Taylor county finds a worthy and competent representative in Dr. Clayton M. Paschal, a physician and surgeon of Bedford. He was born in Louisa county, Iowa, September 13, 1854, and is one of the five children of Albert G. and Mary Jane (Getts) Paschal, both of whom were natives of Ohio. The former was a son of Joseph Paschal, who was likewise born in the Buckeye State and was of Scotch-Irish descent. He was one of the pioneer Methodist ministers of Iowa and for a considerable period devoted his life to the work of the ministry, doing everything in his power to advance the cause of the church during the period when Iowa was in its primitive development. He was also a member of the famous Graybeard Regiment at the time of the Civil war, acting as its chaplain. He died soon after the close of hostilities between the north and the south and his wife's death resulted from typhoid fever when she was about forty-five years of age. They had quite a large family, including Albert G. Paschal, who was reared in Ohio and followed farming in young manhood. He came to Iowa in 1834 and located first near Burlington. In 1849, attracted by the discovery of gold in California, he crossed the plains to that state in search of the precious metal and went through many of the experiences common to the miner in that formative period of western history. In 1853 he returned to Iowa and took up a claim in Monroe and Lucas counties. There he was married and resided until 1871, when he removed to Melrose, where he engaged in banking and general merchandising, being thus connected with the financial and commercial interests of the town until his death, which occurred in 1900 when he was seventy-two years of age. He was a member of the board of supervisors and a man of considerable local influence and prominence. He wedded Mary Jane Getts, a daughter of Jacob Getts, who was a native of Pennsylvania and was of German lineage. Her father became one of the early settlers of Ohio and subsequently was a pioneer in the eastern part of Iowa. He was an



DR. C. M. PASCHAL





expert blacksmith and lived in Columbus City, Iowa, where he conducted a smithy for a long period. He died there when more than eighty years of age, while his wife was about eighty-two years of age at the time of her demise. They had a large family, including four or five sons who were soldiers of the Civil war. Their daughter, Mary J., became the wife of Albert G. Paschal and, surviving her husband for three years, passed away when about seventy-one years of age. Both were members of the Methodist church. Their family included two sons and three daughters, as follows: Clayton M., of this review; Anna, the wife of James A. Payne, of Lacona, Iowa; Getts A., a resident of Melrose; Lois M., who died in young womanhood; and Pink, who is the widow of J. E. Vanwinkle and makes her home in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Dr. Paschal spent his boyhood days in Monroe county and began teaching school at the age of sixteen, following that profession for five years. Not content with the educational opportunities which he had hitherto received, he attended Wesleyan University at Mount Pleasant. He never regarded teaching as his permanent life work but merely as an initial step to other professional labor and as soon as opportunity offered he matriculated in the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuk, from which he was graduated with the class of 1875. He afterward pursued a special course in the Chicago Medical School in 1882. He began practicing medicine in 1875 at old Hawleyville, Page county, Iowa, where he remained for about eight years and in 1890 he came to Taylor county, practicing at New Market until 1893. In that year he arrived in Bedford, where he has since successfully followed his profession, receiving recognition of his ability in the liberal patronage which is accorded him. He keeps abreast with the trend of modern thought regarding professional problems and is interested in everything which tends to bring to man the key to the complex mystery which we call life. Aside from his profession he has a gratifying source of revenue in two fine farms in Taylor county, one of eighty acres and the other of one hundred and sixty acres. He also owns an interest in a ranch of fourteen hundred acres near Fort Morgan, Colorado.

In 1876 Dr. Paschal was married to Miss Mabel Bean, a daughter of Joel and Cecelia Bean. Mrs. Paschal was born in Montgomery county, Iowa, while her father was a native of New Hampshire and her mother of New York. Removing westward, they became early settlers of Montgomery county. Unto Dr. and Mrs. Paschal have been born two sons: Beryl E., a merchant of Ingersoll, Oklahoma, who married Edna Evans and has two sons, George Albert and Robert George; and Karl B., who married Dorothy Bedell, and has a daughter, Marian, and who is a dentist of Bedford.

Dr. and Mrs. C. M. Paschal are members of the Baptist church and are prominent socially in the community. The Doctor belongs to Taylor Lodge, A. F. & A. M., Triangle Chapter, No. 68, R. A. M.; Bedford Lodge, No. 91, I. O. O. F., in which he has filled all of the chairs; the Knights of Pythias lodge; and the Modern Woodmen camp. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he served as county coroner for a number of years, while in 1888 he was elected to the Iowa legislature and served for two terms. Professionally he is connected with the Taylor County Medical Society, the Iowa State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He is a man whose interests



constitute well-balanced forces in his life, making his a well-rounded character. He has sought his success not by any devious methods but by close adherence to the profession which he has chosen as a life work and his determination and energy have gained him a place among the substantial residents of the county.

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### JOHN HILL.

John Hill, who by his numerous friends is familiarly called Jack, is the owner of extensive farming interests in Taylor county, his possessions embracing four hundred and eighty acres, located in Grove township on section 4. He was born in Somersetshire, England, March 23, 1850, and when a little lad of five years was taken by his parents to South Swanza, a seaport town in South Wales. He was there reared to the age of eighteen, during which period he acquired his education in the common schools and through the periods of vacation worked on his father's truck farm. His advantages, in his youth, however, were somewhat limited and he is largely a self-educated man. When eighteen years of age, believing that he might enjoy better opportunities on this side the Atlantic, he set sail for America, landing in the new world in February, 1868. He spent a short time in Portland, Maine, but soon sought a home farther west, journeying to Chicago. From that city he made his way to Warren county, Illinois, and worked for a time as a farm hand near Galesburg. He then returned to Chicago, being there in 1871, at the time of the memorable fire. For a time he was employed as a conductor on the street cars and later for about a year acted as solicitor and delivered for a meat market. He became so well versed in this particular branch of business that he was later made salesman and buyer, being accounted a man of good judgment in making purchases in the wholesale markets. After about three years spent in that business he returned once more to Warren county and again took up farming. It was while making his home in Warren county that he was married, January 23, 1873, to Miss Lucy E. Franklin, who was there born and reared, a daughter of John Franklin, a pioneer of that county.

Following his marriage Mr. Hill located on a farm of eighty acres in Warren county. After a year he removed to another farm of one hundred and sixty acres, where he spent a similar period and then removed to a still larger place, this tract comprising two hundred acres. He spent five years on the latter farm and then, believing that the rich and undeveloped soil of Iowa might prove more remunerative, in 1880 he made a trip to Taylor county and bought one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 4, Grove township, this constituting a portion of his present acreage. A year later, in 1881, he removed his family to Iowa and taking up his abode on his newly acquired farm, has since made it his home. It, however, today bears little resemblance to the place when he first took possession. At that time there was a crude dwelling and but few other improvements on the farm. It seemed a hard task that was presented to Mr. Hill but with undaunted energy and a courageous spirit he took up his work and although many years passed before he brought the place to its desired condition, he kept adding to his holdings and making further improvements, until it is now one of the most valuable farms



of this section of the state. He now owns four hundred and eighty acres, which is supplied with three sets of buildings, including houses, barns, machine sheds, granaries, etc. He farms on an extensive scale and also raises considerable stock, formerly feeding forty thousand bushels of corn annually. He now ships from two to four carloads of cattle and hogs each year and always keeps the best grades of stock. His life has been a success and yet it has come to him through his own well directed labors and his capable management of business affairs, so that all may rejoice with him in what he has accomplished.

Mr. and Mrs. Hill have three living sons and three daughters: Bert, who is married, is a prominent farmer of Taylor county and at the present writing, in 1909, is serving as assessor of Grove township; Otto, who is also married and follows farming; and Eddie, Grace, Ethel May and Lucy Fay, who are at home. They also lost three sons and one daughter in infancy, the sons being Irwin, Arthur and Ray who passed away at the ages of eighteen, ten and eight months respectively.

Mr. Hill is independent in his political views, voting for men and measures rather than adhering strictly to party ties. He has participated to some extent in public affairs and served for some years as treasurer of the school board. He has also been a delegate to county, state and national conventions and was a delegate to the free silver convention in Kansas City, when William J. Bryan was nominated for the presidency. He has also been United States crop reporter at Washington for a number of years. He is a Mason, belonging to the blue lodge at Lenox, the chapter at Corning, the commandery at Creston and the Mystic Shrine at Davenport. His stock buying interests have taken him into various sections of Iowa so that his acquaintanceship is not confined to the bounds of Taylor county but extends over Adam, Monroe and Ringgold counties as well and likewise into Nodaway county, Missouri. For almost three decades he has lived in Taylor county and his interests are thoroughly allied with those of the county and while seeking to advance his own personal welfare he has also been a beneficial and helpful factor in the community at large.

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#### H. H. LONGWELL.

H. H. Longwell has made his home in Blockton since 1895 and derives a good living from his invested interests. He was formerly identified with farming in Union county and the rest which he is now enjoying is well merited, for in early years he led a very busy and active life. Mr. Longwell was born in Crawford county, Ohio, February 10, 1837, a son of George Longwell, who was born in Connecticut, a son of Edwin Longwell. The latter removed to Licking county in an early day, when much of the land was still in possession of the Indians and when his nearest neighbors were the red men. It was also at a time when much wild game was to be found in that district. It was in Licking county that George Longwell was reared and was there married to Miss Margaret Jury, who was born in the Buckeye State, of Welsh parentage. Mr. Longwell there engaged in farming and reared a family of three children. In 1853 he opened up a farm



in Iowa county, Iowa, which he developed and improved but later disposed of that property and removed to Keokuk county, this state, where he spent his remaining years and passed away. His wife survived him and departed this life in Washington county, Iowa.

H. H. Longwell was reared in the county of his nativity to the age of fifteen years, during which time he acquired his education in the district schools. At the above stated age he removed with his parents to Iowa county, Iowa, and enrolled his name as a student in the Iowa City College, where he qualified for the teacher's profession, which he followed for one year prior to the outbreak of the Civil war. At that time, in 1861, he enlisted for service, joining the Second Iowa Cavalry in August of that year. Going south with his command he saw active service in Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee under Pope, participated in the battle of Corinth and later participated in the battle at Boonville, Missouri, under General Sheridan. He also took part in many skirmishes and after the battle of Corinth was on provost duty for a time under General Rosecrans. At Corinth, in 1863, he veteranized and went home on a furlough. Later he rejoined his regiment near Memphis, Tennessee, and remained at the front until the close of hostilities. He was mustered out and received an honorable discharge at Selma, Alabama, in September, 1865.

Returning to the home farm, Mr. Longwell then remained with his father until the latter's death, after which he took charge of the home place. It was about that time, on the 15th of November, 1866, that he was married to Miss Adda Hallett, who was born in Ohio and removed with her parents when a little maiden of six years to Iowa county. Following their marriage Mr. Longwell continued farming operations in Iowa county but later took up his abode in Keokuk county and eventually made a location in Union county, where he purchased a farm and continued to operate the same throughout a long period. In 1895, however, he abandoned farming pursuits and purchasing a block of land in Blockton, took up his abode in this city, where he has made his home to the present time. He built to and remodeled the house and now has a modern and commodious structure, supplied with all conveniences and accessories for the inmates of the household. He also invested in land near Woodward, Oklahoma, and owns property near Alva, both of which are finely improved farms, from which he derives a substantial income.

Mr. and Mrs. Longwell have reared a family of four children, namely: Laura May, who is a stenographer, occupying a responsible position in Des Moines; Fred M., who is an osteopathic physician in Oregon; R. H., who was an electrical engineer in Des Moines and is now in the employ of Crane Manufacturing Company; and Zua, the wife of Everett Williams, a farmer of Woodward, Oklahoma. They have one child living, Eston, and have lost one.

Mr. Longwell gives his political support to the republican party and has been called by his fellow townsmen to serve in public positions, having filled the offices of township clerk and assessor, while living in Union county. He has also served as mayor of Blockton. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist church, and Mrs. Longwell is a teacher in the Sunday school. Mr. Longwell is a Master Mason, belonging to the blue lodge at Blockton and both he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star Chapter. Mr. Longwell is a member



of the G. A. R. post at Blockton, in which he is serving as commander. Mr. Longwell has led an upright, honest life. His entire political service has been in the interest of the people. His loyalty to his country, when, at the age of twenty-four years he abandoned the profession of teaching and went to the front during the Civil war, is a chapter in his history, and this loyalty has been manifest throughout his entire career—in public life, in social and fraternal relations, and in citizenship. He has now passed the seventy-second milestone on life's journey and he and his estimable wife are enjoying in retirement the accumulations of profitable, successful and honorable careers.

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### LOCK CAMPBELL.

For more than a half century Lock Campbell has been a resident of Taylor county and during this period has been closely identified with the marvelous growth and development which has been carried on within its borders. A native of Iowa, he has been a life-long resident of this state, and during the period covered by his active business career has been instrumental in the improvement of three different farming properties.

Born in Lee county on the 5th of November, 1847, he is a son of John and Esther (McClain) Campbell, both natives of Ohio, the former of Guernsey county and the latter of Licking county. The father was reared and married in Guernsey county and in 1842 arrived in Iowa, casting in his lot with the pioneer settlers of Lee county. There he purchased a farm of two hundred and forty acres, upon which he made his home until 1855, when he invested in four hundred acres in Benton township, Taylor county, to which he removed and upon which he resided for five years. In 1860 he withdrew from agricultural pursuits and removed to Bedford, where he was engaged in merchandising for five years. He passed away in 1886, in Ringgold county, Iowa, at the age of seventy-six years, while his wife's death occurred in 1857. They were the parents of five children.

To the common schools of Lee county and of Bedford Lock Campbell is indebted for the educational advantages which he enjoyed during the period of his boyhood and youth. He lost his mother when a little lad of ten years and remained under his father's care until he attained his majority, when he started out in business on his own account, engaging in agricultural pursuits in partnership with his brother-in-law. He was thus connected until his marriage, after which he purchased eighty acres in Clayton township and later added eighty acres. Few improvements had been made upon the farm when it came into his possession, but with characteristic energy he set about breaking the soil and converting the land into productive fields. He erected a house and a small barn and continued in the work of cultivating and developing the place until 1884. In that year he purchased the farm upon which he now makes his home, consisting of eighty acres on section 20, Grant township, to the further improvement of which he has since directed his efforts. The only dwelling that stood upon the farm at the time of purchase was a little log house, which has since given place to a modern



frame structure, while Mr. Campbell has also erected substantial barns and out-buildings and has surrounded his fields with good fences. He has a large orchard of apple, peach and cherry trees, which yield rich fruits in their season. In fact everything about the place indicates that he is in touch with the modern spirit of progress which is manifest in agricultural lines, and his farming interests have been so wisely and carefully conducted that he has won substantial success. Aside from his farming interests he also devotes much time to raising and feeding stock, and he is enjoying a most gratifying income from the fact that both branches of his business—the raising of grain and the raising of stock—are proving most profitable.

On the 9th of April, 1877, Mr. Campbell was united in marriage to Miss Ethel Wright, a native of Clayton township, Taylor county, where she was reared and married. Unto that union were born two children, namely: Hollis E., the wife of W. L. Ross, of Wayne county, Nebraska; and Harry B., of Hill City, South Dakota. In February, 1884, Mr. Campbell was called upon to mourn the loss of his first wife, and later in the same year, in Conway, Iowa, he was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Clara Robinson. This union has been blessed with one daughter, Clara, the wife of E. Harrigan, who resides with our subject and assists in the operation of the home farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Campbell are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, while fraternally Mr. Campbell is a Master Mason, being identified with the blue lodge of Bedford, of which he has been a member for more than thirty years. He gives his political support to the republican party, having cast his first presidential vote for General U. S. Grant in 1872, since which time he has supported every candidate on that ticket. For more than five decades he has been a resident of Taylor county and during that period has been thoroughly identified with its interests. When he first took up his abode within its borders not a frame house was to be seen in the city of Bedford, which was then a little village of log cabins. In the years covering his residence here he has witnessed the county's growth and progress, nor has he been alone an interested witness for he has aided in the work of development.

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#### JAMES FOSSETT.

A well improved and valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres pays tribute to the care and labor bestowed upon it by James Fossett, an enterprising and prosperous agriculturist of Grove township, who has been a resident of Taylor county for a period of about thirty years. A native of Illinois, he was born in Peoria county on the 22d of April, 1855, and is a son of James and Mary (Dean) Fossett, the former born and reared in Indiana, and the latter born in Massachusetts but reared in Illinois. The father went to Illinois when a young man, locating in Peoria county, where he was united in marriage. His entire life was devoted to farming, and he was engaged in that line of activity in Illinois to the time of his demise, which occurred about 1859, when he was thirty-three years of age. His wife survived until about 1883 and also passed



away in the Prairie state. Their family consisted of three children, the sisters of our subject being: Sarah E., the wife of George Blake of Dunlap, Illinois; and Mary E., who wedded John Stephenson, of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

James Fossett was but a little lad of four years when his father passed away, and it was therefore necessary for him at an early day to assist his mother in the support of the family. Consequently his educational advantages were very limited. At the early age of eleven he began earning his own livelihood, being employed as a farm hand for several years. In the spring of 1879, he came to Taylor county, Iowa, and rented a farm, carrying on agricultural pursuits in that capacity for a number of years. He purchased a breaking team and for a season or two broke prairie land and later invested in a tract of forty acres in Ross township. For three years thereafter he resided in Bedford, the last year being devoted to the occupation of teaming, and then he located upon his little farm, upon which stood a small house. He remodeled the dwelling and later added another tract of eighty acres to his original purchase. He continued to make that his home for about five years and in the meantime greatly improved and developed the property, so that at the expiration of that period he was able to sell the farm at a very gratifying advance over the original purchase.

Coming to Grove township, Mr. Fossett bought one hundred and sixty acres located on sections 26 and 27, upon which he has continued to make his home to the present time. He has since directed his entire energies to its further cultivation, and under his careful management it has become one of the well improved and valuable properties of the township. When it came into his possession it was equipped with a small house, in which he resided for two years, and then it was replaced by a neat and attractive modern residence. He has also erected a large barn and substantial outbuildings and has a good orchard of his own planting, while everything about the place indicates a spirit of progress, thrift and industry on the part of the owner. Not only to the tilling of the soil has he confined his attention, but he has also engaged to some extent in the stock business, raising and fattening a large number of hogs annually, for which he receives good prices on the market. Energy, diligence and perseverance have characterized his entire business career and have proven salient elements in the acquirement of the gratifying measure of success which he today enjoys.

It was on the 9th of October, 1881, that Mr. Fossett was united in marriage in Grove township to Miss Sarah Tando, whose birth occurred in Bureau county, Illinois. Her father Edward Tando, who was born and reared in Connecticut, was there married to Miss Mary Matthews, a native of Ireland, and later they moved to Bureau county, Illinois. In 1870, they came to Iowa, being numbered among the early settlers of Taylor county. Here Mr. Tando lost his wife and about 1873, was again married, after which he moved to Washington county, Arkansas, where his remaining years were spent. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Fossett has been blessed with one son, Charles L., a young man who is now assisting his father in the operation of the home farm.

Although Mr. Fossett casts a republican vote in all national issues, he exercises his right of franchise at local elections in behalf of men and measures which, in his opinion, are best adapted to conserve the public welfare, regardless of party ties. Although he has ever been most active and public spirited, having been



remiss in none of those matters which demand the interest and attention of every true and loyal citizen, he has never sought public preferment nor would he suffer himself to be elected by his fellowmen to any public office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon the conduct of his own personal business. Having resided within the borders of Taylor county for about thirty years, he has in the meantime been thoroughly identified with the interests of the county and is numbered among its representative citizens. Having started out at the early age of eleven years to make his own way in the world, he has made continuous progress in the business world until he today ranks among the substantial and prosperous agriculturists of his township, well deserving the proud title of a self-made man, and his labors have contributed to the general upbuilding of the community as well as to his individual success.

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#### RICHARD LIVINGSTON.

For many years Richard Livingston was actively identified with farming interests in Gay township, where he still owns a valuable farming property but since 1905, he has lived retired in a nice home in Blockton. He dates his residence in Iowa from 1859, coming west as a young man from New York, his birth having occurred in Tioga county, that state, on the 27th of October, 1837. His parents, William and Elizabeth (Young) Richards, were likewise natives of the Empire state, where they were reared and married. They eventually came to the west, settling in Indiana in 1849.

Richard Livingston was a young man of twenty-two years, when, believing that the opportunities in the west would more quickly enhance his financial condition, he came to Iowa in 1859 and engaged in farming in Muscatine county. It was while a resident of that section that he enlisted for service in the Civil war, offering his aid in September, 1861, and becoming a member of Company A, Eleventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry. Going south with his company he took part in the battle of Shiloh, where he received a gunshot wound in the left wrist, which disabled him for further active duty and he was honorably discharged.

Returning to his home in Iowa, Mr. Livingston was soon afterward married on February 20, 1863, the lady of his choice being Miss Minerva A. Stretch, who was born and reared in Muscatine county, a daughter of Andrew Stretch, who on coming from Ohio to Iowa, became one of the first settlers of Muscatine county.

Following his marriage Mr. and Mrs. Livingston began their domestic life upon a farm of eighty acres, which he had purchased in Muscatine county. He improved and developed his place and was there engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1883, when he removed to Taylor county and purchased a farm in Gay township. This he also improved, erecting a nice country residence, good barn and other outbuildings and he also set out an orchard and a grove, so that his place is one of the valuable properties of Gay township. He added to his holdings from time to time until at one time he owned three hundred and twenty



acres, but he has since sold to his son eighty acres of this and now retains possession of two hundred and forty acres. Throughout a long period Mr. Livingston was actively engaged in farming on this tract and his efforts were rewarded with success. He eventually left the farm and he and his wife removed to Bedford, where the latter could care for a brother, who was an invalid and who served in the Civil war. In 1905, however, they took up their abode in Blockton, where Mr. Livingston purchased a comfortable home and he and his wife are now living a contented and happy life, enjoying in well earned ease the fruits of their former toil.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Livingston has been blessed with four sons, namely: Marion A., who is a traveling salesman and makes his headquarters in Council Bluffs, Iowa; Charles M., a business man of Des Moines; A. L., who follows farming in Gay township; and William A., who operates the old home place.

Mr. Livingston is a republican in politics. He has been called by his fellow townsmen to serve in some public offices, filling the positions of township trustee and assessor. He has also been a delegate to county conventions and for many years served as school director, at one time being president of the board. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Livingston holds membership in the G. A. R. Post at Blockton. To those whose good fortune it is to know him intimately, his companionship, friendship and counsel are appreciated and helpful. With him there is no turning aside from right and duty but his every day life reflects his true Christian character. Both he and his companion are people of genuine worth and they have many friends both in Blockton and in the surrounding districts.

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#### JAY S. TERRILL, M. D.

Among the younger members of the medical fraternity who are now engaged in the active practice of their profession in Blockton, is numbered Dr. Jay S. Terrill, who, although he has been a resident of this city only since 1905, has in the meantime been accorded a very satisfactory patronage, which is constantly growing as his ability and worth become more widely recognized. One of Iowa's native sons, his entire life has been passed in Taylor county. His birth occurred in Bedford in the old Pacific Hotel, March 5, 1882, and he is a son of Asa and Ida M. (Standley) Terrill, mention of whom is made on another page of this volume.

Reared in Taylor county, Dr. Jay S. Terrill acquired his early education in the schools of Blockton and Platteville, while later he attended Simpson College. Deciding upon the profession of medicine as a congenial and profitable life work, he pursued a course of lectures at Ensworth Central College, graduating from that institution with the class of 1906. He then located for practice at Shannon City, and continued in that place for one year, at the end of which time he came to Blockton and has continued to make this his home, here engaging in general practice. He has good offices, thoroughly equipped with all the accessories nec-



essary for the practice of his profession, while he is the owner of one of the few X-Ray machines to be found in this vicinity. He has already built up a good practice, which is constantly expanding. He has continued a student of the science of medicine, seeking by study and research to broaden his knowledge, while at all times he keeps abreast of the progress and improvement being carried on in the medical world through his membership in the National, State and County Medical Associations. In former years Dr. Terrill was his father's partner in the hardware and implement business and is well known not only in this city but also in Bedford and throughout Taylor county.

On the 6th of September, 1905, Dr. Terrill was united in marriage in this county to Miss Ruby Ewart, who was born and reared in Taylor county and is a daughter of William Ewart, one of the old settlers of Gay township, this county. They now have a little daughter, Maxine, born August 21, 1909.

In his fraternal relations Dr. Terrill holds membership in the Knights of Pythias lodge and is serving as one of its officials. In politics he is a republican, but the honors and emoluments of office have had no attraction for him, his time and energies being entirely occupied with the duties of his chosen calling, which he discharges with a sense of conscientious obligation and with a thorough understanding of the responsibility that devolves upon him. He is, however, serving as city and township physician and is an honored member of the Taylor County Medical Society, the Iowa State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He is a student of the signs of the times, keeping in touch with the trend of modern thought concerning matters of general interest as well as of professional advancement. He is making a creditable record as a member of the medical fraternity and is meeting with gratifying success in his practice.

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#### H. K. HAMBLIN.

H. K. Hamblin needs no introduction to the readers of this volume for through more than a half century he has lived in the county, figuring prominently in its upbuilding and then as a leading farmer and representative business man. His life record began in Cayuga county, New York, on the 18th of May, 1852. He is a son of Daniel Hamblin, who was also born in the Empire State and was there reared and married, the lady of his choice being Miss Anna Kenyon, a native of New York. Mr. Hamblin was a farmer in Cayuga county for several years and two of his sons were born there. He removed westward to Iowa with his family in the spring of 1857, driving through from Lee county, Illinois, to Taylor county, Iowa. This was still a frontier district in which much of the land was still in possession of the government. He preempted a claim in Washington township which he improved and upon that place he resided for a year or two but found that he had settled on railroad land. He then bought a place of one hundred and sixty acres which was a raw tract, not a furrow having been turned or an improvement made upon it. With characteristic energy he began to break the sod and in course of time planted the fields which later brought forth rich harvests. Year by year he carefully carried on his farming







H. K. HAMBLIN



MRS. H. K. HAMBLIN





operations and was thus enabled to provide his family with the necessities and many of the comforts of life. He now resides with his son Frank and has reached the age of eighty-two years. His wife died there, passing away in 1903.

H. K. Hamblin of this review was reared to manhood on the old home farm and acquired his education in the common schools and in Bedford. Later he became a teacher, following the profession through seven winter terms but in the summer months remained with his father and assisted in carrying on the home farm up to the time of his marriage. That important event in his life occurred in Marshall township, Taylor county, on the 25th of November, 1875, when Miss Hattie Wolcott, a native of Wisconsin, became his wife. Mrs. Hamblin is an artist of exceptional ability and every picture in her home is her own work. She was reared and educated in her native state and for a number of years engaged in teaching in Taylor county, Iowa. After his marriage Mr. Hamblin located on a farm in Marshall township, having previously purchased eighty acres of raw prairie land. He built a frame house upon the place, opened up the farm and as he prospered in his undertakings extended its boundaries from time to time until he owned two hundred and forty acres in that place. The work of improvement was also carried steadily forward. He built an addition to the house, put up a large barn and also built good out-buildings affording ample shelter for grain and stock. He likewise planted a grove and set out an orchard and divided the farm into fields of convenient size by well-kept fences. Year by year the work of general improvement was continued and he developed an extensive property. In connection with the cultivation of cereals, he also raised and fed stock for a few years and found it a profitable source of income. He continued his farming operations until 1902, when he sold that property and removed to Bedford where he bought a good residence. He also purchased a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Mason township, which he rents, deriving therefrom a substantial income. After taking up his abode in Bedford he became a partner of Isaac Williams in an implement business but within a year his partner died and Mr. Hamblin continued the business for some time. At about the end of five years, however, he sold out or rather traded for a farm in Bedford township lying partly within and partly beyond the corporation limits of the city. In his business transactions he has been usually successful owing to his sound judgment, his keen discernment and his unfaltering industry.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hamblin have been born three children: Grace May, now the wife of A. M. Whitman of Beatrice, Nebraska; and Allen Wolcott, who is a student in the Bedford high school, being now engaged in the work of the junior year. They also lost one daughter, Maud Lillian who died in her third year.

In his political views Mr. Hamblin is an earnest republican and while living on the farm served as treasurer of the township school fund for fourteen consecutive years. He has filled the office of township trustee in an acceptable manner, has acted on the grand and petit juries and has been a delegate of the county conventions. Both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church, in which Mr. Hamblin is serving as one of the elders. He has been



superintendent of the Sunday-school for about four years and his wife is a Sunday-school teacher. Both are greatly interested in the church work and are doing all in their power to advance its interests. Mr. Hamblin is well known in Bedford and throughout the county. He has assisted in developing three or four farms and in furthering the interests of the community in many ways and at all times has maintained an unassailable reputation for reliability as well as business enterprise. His success is well merited, coming to him as the reward of earnest, persistent and honorable effort.

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### W. W. GEORGE.

W. W. George is living a retired life in Lenox, merely looking after his farming and invested interests. He formerly led a very busy and useful life whereby he acquired the success that now enables him to rest from labor. He was born in Franklin county, Indiana, June 17, 1855, a son of B. F. George, who was also born in that county, January 3, 1829. The father was reared in his native state and was there married to Miss Rebecca Abraham, who was likewise born in Franklin county. He gave his attention to farming in that district for some years but in 1859 removed to Iowa, making the journey to this state in a prairie schooner. He reached Adams county in July of that year and chose that section as his destination for his father, Hiram George, had been there in 1855 and entered land for himself and some friends. B. F. George also purchased land which was partially improved and after adding more improvements to the place he extended its boundaries by additional purchases and continued to make his home in Adams county for many years. Later he removed to Kansas and after about fourteen years spent in the Sunflower state, passed away in February, 1908, when he had reached the advanced age of seventy-eight years. The mother preceded him to the home beyond, her death occurring in 1905. They reared a family numbering two sons and two daughters: W. W., of this review; M. B., a resident of Adams county, Iowa; Lucy, the wife of George Wiechen, a resident of Sedgwick county, Kansas; and Laura E., the wife of E. V. Fritts, of Lincoln county, that state.

W. W. George was a little lad of about four years when he was taken from the place of his nativity to Adams county, Iowa. He was reared in the latter place and began his education in the country schools near his father's home. Later he attended the high school at Cromwell for one year. He remained with his father during the period of his boyhood and youth and in the spring and summer months rendered valuable assistance on the home farm. He thus gained practical knowledge of the best methods of agriculture, so that he was well fitted to carry on work of this kind when he started out on his own account.

In October, 1882, he won a companion and helpmate through his marriage to Miss Lizzie Roth, who was born in Illinois remaining there to the age of sixteen years, when she went to Adams county, this state. Her father, Joseph Roth, was a farmer, following that pursuit first in Illinois and later in Adams county, Iowa. Mrs. George engaged in teaching for several years prior to her marriage.



Following his marriage Mr. George engaged in farming in Adams county until 1891 and in that year removed to Bison, Rush county, Kansas, and engaged in the lumber business. Later he purchased an elevator and carried on a grain business in connection with his lumberyard. After six years of prosperity he returned to Taylor county and purchased a nice home in Lenox, which he has since occupied. He here formed a partnership with Robert Martin in the establishment of a furniture, hardware and implement business, in which he was actively engaged for three years. He then disposed of his mercantile concern and has since lived retired, although he looks after the rental of his two farms, one of three hundred acres in Adams county, and a second in Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. George have two sons: J. A., a young man at home; and W. Roy, a student in Washburn College, at Topeka, Kansas. They lost their only daughter, the eldest of the family, who died in 1905 when nineteen years of age. Mr. George is a democrat in his political affiliations but has never desired public office, for in former years his time was fully occupied with his business affairs. He is a member of the United Presbyterian church at Lenox, and belongs to K. P. lodge, in which he is serving as vice chancellor. Mr. and Mrs. George have spent several seasons in California, Utah and other western states and have thus indulged their love of travel. Mr. George is one of the substantial and public-spirited citizens of Taylor county, for he has been identified with its interests for many years. He is a man of exemplary habits, strict integrity, and has a strong personality, and Lenox is proud to number him among her best citizens.

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#### RILEY LEE.

Riley Lee, a worthy and successful representative of the agricultural interests of Washington township, is engaged in general farming and also raises and feeds stock. He is the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of rich and arable land and his possessions are the visible evidence of his life of industry and thrift.

Mr. Lee was born in Vermilion county, Illinois, on the 20th of July, 1867, a son of W. H. and Elizabeth (Dick) Lee, who were natives of Indiana. Their family numbered nine children, namely: Riley, Ira, Eunice, Jane, Levi, Carrie, Oda, Iva and Essie.

Riley Lee, whose name introduces this review, was a little lad of seven years when he came with his parents to this state in the year 1874. Throughout his active business career he has been identified with general agricultural pursuits and, as stated above, is now the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Washington township, Taylor county. In addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he is also engaged in the raising and feeding of stock and, owing to his well directed labor and capable management, both branches of his business return to him a gratifying annual income.

On the 14th of November, 1894, Mr. Lee was united in marriage to Miss Nellie Nickell, whose birth occurred in Henry county, Iowa, in 1871, her parents being B. F. and Mary E. (Johnson) Nickell. Mrs. Lee is one of a family of five children, the others being Lizzie, Harlan, Wade and Lester.



Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Lee has given his political allegiance to the men and measures of the republican party and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have called him to positions of public trust. He is now serving for the second term as trustee of Washington township, while for two terms he capably discharged the duties devolving upon him in the office of township clerk. He attends the Christian church, of which his wife is a member. They are well known and highly esteemed throughout the community in which they reside, having gained the warm regard and friendship of all with whom they have come in contact.

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#### ALEXANDER JOHN.

Alexander John, who is numbered among the pioneer farmers and stock-raisers of Taylor county, dating his residence here from 1855, was born in Indiana near Rossville, May 4, 1841. He acquired his education in the common schools, remaining in his native state until fourteen years of age, at which time he accompanied his mother to Iowa, settling in Bedford, which at that time was little more than a crossroads village, consisting of a few log huts. They made this their permanent abode, however, Mrs. John entering a tract of land east of the village, which the son, with characteristic energy, immediately proceeded to break in preparation for cultivation. He remained with his mother for several years, assisting her in the improvement of the farm, and then, wishing to engage in business on his own account, he purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, upon which he now resides. It is located on section 23, Bedford township, and adjoins the corporation limits of Bedford. He at once broke the sod and put the fields under cultivation, while he also set out a fine orchard, consisting of twenty acres of fruit trees. As the years passed he added improvement after improvement until his farm now ranks among the valuable properties in Bedford township. He has built three commodious barns upon the place, in addition to other substantial outbuildings, has introduced all of the modern devices for facilitating farm labor, while the year 1873 witnessed the erection of a fine large residence. He carries on general farming, in addition to which he has, for many years, bred and dealt in shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. In 1906 and again in 1908 he conducted a public sale and on these different occasions his shipment of stock was very large. He has been very successful in this branch of his business and it has been a source of gratifying profit to him. He also owns considerable timberland and some residence property in the village of Bedford.

An interruption came in his active business career when Mr. John enlisted for service in the Civil war, joining Company F, Twenty-ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, in August, 1862. He saw much active service, most of which was confined to Arkansas and the adjoining territory, participating in the battle of Helena and numerous lesser engagements. He was taken sick and remained for some time in the hospital at Memphis. Later he rejoined his regiment at Little Rock, Arkansas, and participated in several skirmishes, among which was the battle of Saline River, Arkansas. At the close of the war he was mustered out

and in September, 1865, was honorably discharged at Davenport, Iowa, with a most creditable military record.

In February, 1866, Mr. John was united in marriage in Oquawka, Illinois, to Miss Eliza J. Shoemaker, a native of Henderson county, that state, where she was reared, educated and taught school for some years. Their home has been blessed with five children, namely: Mattie, the wife of E. C. Dowlin, of Bedford; Alla, the wife of John F. Keifer, of Wichita, Kansas; Frank, a merchant of Larussell, Missouri; Grace, the wife of Glade Kinnison, residing in Lincoln, Nebraska; and Esther, who is now attending the university at Lincoln.

Mr. John and his family are members of the Baptist church, and his wife is actively and helpfully interested in various phases of church work. Fraternally he is a Mason, joining the lodge in Bedford. His political support is given to the democratic party on all national issues but at local elections he prefers to support the men and measures that, in his opinion, are best adapted to conserve the public welfare. His fellow citizens, recognizing his personal worth, have called him to various positions of trust and responsibility, and the duties which devolved upon him were at all times performed with a promptness and thoroughness that reflected credit alike upon himself and his constituents. He was elected clerk of the courts, serving for one term, and later was elected and reelected county treasurer, his term of office extending from 1874 until 1877 inclusive. In 1885 he was called upon to serve out an unexpired term, while the entire period of his incumbency in the office of treasurer covered seven years. He was identified with school interests for some time and proved himself a stalwart champion of the cause of education. He is interested in all that pertains to the material, intellectual and moral development of the community and as the years have passed he has made a splendid record as one whose close application to business and whose enterprise, guided by sound judgment, have gained for him rank among the foremost representative and progressive farmers of Taylor county.

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#### ARTHUR A. HAMBLIN.

Washington township numbers Arthur A. Hamblin among its substantial farmers, for he now owns a valuable property of one hundred and sixty acres, whereon he has made his home since 1877. He was born in New York, January 15, 1855, and comes of English descent, his ancestors having come to the United States on the Mayflower. The paternal grandfather, Winslow Hamblin, made his home in the Empire state. His son Daniel became the father of our subject, while another son, Dennis Hamblin, served in the Civil war with the rank of lieutenant. Daniel Hamblin wedded Miss Anne Kinion, who is now deceased, while he makes his home with his son Frank and has now reached the very advanced age of eighty-four years. Mrs. Daniel Hamblin was one of a family of six children, her brothers and sisters being: George and Allen, who served in the Civil war; Dr. Frank Kinion, a resident of New York; Conley; and Mary. By her marriage Mrs. Hamblin became the mother of three sons: Horace, a farmer



of Bedford, Iowa; Frank, who makes his home in Sharpsburg, this state; and Arthur A., of this review.

The last named was reared under the parental roof and acquired his education in the district schools near his father's home. He was early trained to the duties of the home farm, assisting his father in the work of the fields during the plowing, planting and harvesting seasons. He remained at home until he was twenty-three years of age and then purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Washington township. At that time, however, it was all wild prairie, covered with the native grasses, but Mr. Hamblin at once undertook the work of developing and improving the place, and in due time placed the fields under a good state of cultivation, while a comfortable residence and substantial farm buildings also add much to the value and appearance of the property. Year by year he has worked persistently and energetically in carrying on his business and his labors have not been without reward, for he annually gathers good crops, which add to his financial resources. This farm has been his home for more than thirty-two years and today he looks over his broad fields with a just pride, feeling that it has been through his own labors that they have been brought to their present fine state of cultivation.

It was only about a year after Mr. Hamblin purchased this property that he sought a companion and helpmate for life, choosing Miss Edna Akey to preside over his household. They were married in Taylor county in December, 1878. She has a brother, Guy Akey, who is a well known farmer of Marshall township, this county. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Hamblin has been blessed with three daughters and three sons, namely: Amasa; Cora, the wife of Elmer Dutton, a resident farmer of this county; Olive; Bessie, the wife of Charles Reeder, who follows farming in Illinois; Ray, who at the age of fourteen years is attending school at Gravity; and Frank, who is nine years of age and is also in school.

Mr. Hamblin belongs to the Presbyterian church of Gravity, in which he is serving as an elder, his daily life being in strict harmony with his professions. When he took up his abode in Washington township, much of the land was still in a wild state and his own farm required much arduous labor to bring it to its present standard. In the years that have passed he has accomplished much and is today classed with the county's most substantial residents, his public-spirited citizenship being an influential factor in the community in which he lives.

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#### FRANK U. HUNTER.

Frank Hunter is numbered among the agriculturists of Taylor county and is also gaining a reputation as an auctioneer, his services in this connection being in demand in various sections of the state. He was born in Page county, Iowa, February 5, 1869, being next to the youngest in a family of ten children, born of the marriage of John J. and Samantha (Hecox) Hunter, the other members of the family being William, Riley, Oscar, Truman, John, Tama, Caroline, Bessie and Henry.



Frank U. Hunter was reared to farm life and when starting out upon his own account chose that occupation with which he was familiar. He now owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, located in Dallas township, and on this tract has been engaged in general farming throughout a long period. His place is improved with good buildings and his thorough understanding of farm labor has brought to him success in his undertakings. In later years, however, he decided to take up auctioneering and to that end entered the Carpenter School of Auctioneering at Trenton, Missouri, from which institution he was graduated in January, 1909. In this connection he has built up quite an extensive patronage, crying sales of all kinds in various sections of the state. For a number of years he has given close study to pedigreed stock and he expects to make that particular branch of auctioneering his specialty.

Mr. Hunter was married June 23, 1889, to Miss Abbie McAlpin, who was born in Page county, Iowa, in 1866, a daughter of Robert and Susan (Harris) McAlpin. Mrs. Hunter has one sister and three brothers, these being Dora, Thomas, George and Charles.

A republican in his political beliefs, Mr. Hunter has taken a very active part in public affairs and has been called by his fellow townsmen to fill some township offices, having served as assessor of Dallas township one term, while at the present writing he is serving as school treasurer of the township. He is an Odd Fellow, holding membership with the lodge at New Market, while both he and his wife are members of the Methodist church. He is courteous, affable and approachable, which will form strong features in the line to which he is now bending his energies, and the sales which he has already conducted have brought to his patrons a good profit and this is proving his best advertisement.

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#### WILLIS E. OXFORD.

A valuable farming property of one hundred and forty acres in Mason township has been in possession of Willis E. Oxford since January, 1906, and in its further development and improvement he is displaying a spirit of marked enterprise combined with practical and progressive methods. He was born in Butler county, Iowa, January 17, 1878, and is a son of John W. and Alice Rose (Aman) Oxford. The former was a son of Elias and Ruth Oxford and the family is one that has long been represented in America. The children of Elias Oxford were: Harrison, now deceased; Mrs. Sarah Reeves; Mrs. Phebe Nichols; Mrs. Mary Bird, deceased; Mrs. Jane Bird; Mrs. Caroline Randolph, deceased; and Mrs. Elizabeth A. Benham.

The maternal grandfather of Willis E. Oxford was Walter G. Aman, a brother of John R. Aman. His children were: William L., Elmer E., Charles W., Bert R., Mrs. Alice Rose Oxford, Mrs. Ella Whiteman, Mrs. Effie Brewer, Mrs. Minnie Wolf and Mrs. Emma Brennen. The brothers and sisters of Willis E. Oxford are: Reuben M., John Logan, Orville W., George Francis and Mrs. Carrie Wolf.



Willis E. Oxford began his education in the public schools of Butler county, Iowa, but after attending for one year accompanied his parents on their removal to Nebraska in 1885. The father died and the son assisted the mother in carrying on her business interests for a number of years. He also attended school in Nebraska until his sixteenth year, after which his undivided time and attention were given to the business interests of his mother. At length he determined to establish a home in his native state and, returning to Iowa, settled in Taylor county, purchasing his present farm in January, 1906. He now has an excellent tract of land of one hundred and forty acres, which is naturally rich and productive and responds readily to the care and labor which he bestows upon it. It is now most thrifty and attractive in appearance and he carries on general farming and also raises all kinds of stock. He has divided the place into fields of convenient size by well kept fences, has sunk wells and has kept the buildings in good repair, so that the farm presents a pleasing appearance.

On the 3d of October, 1901, Mr. Oxford was united in marriage at Bedford, Iowa, to Miss Minnie M. Raynor, a native of Taylor county and a daughter of Marquis de Lafayette and Alelia Raynor. Her father, who was a prominent farmer at Newmarket, Iowa, became one of the early settlers of this county, arriving in 1854 when few homes had been established within its borders. He was thereafter closely associated with the pioneer development of the community. He had seven brothers: William, Lewis, Ferd, Parker, Harvey, Austin and Ulysses. Having arrived at years of maturity, Mr. Raynor wedded Alelia Jay, a daughter of Mrs. Margaret Head and a sister of John Jay, Mrs. Mary Adams, Mrs. Kate Pace, Sime, Mrs. Mabel Tyree and Mrs. Edna Tyree. The last three were half brothers and sisters. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Raynor: Mrs. Emma Teeters, Mrs. Oxford, Mrs. Beniah Green, Mrs. Meadie, Holland and Mrs. Addie Adams. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Oxford has been blessed with four children: Lester Young, Carrie Emma, Vera Maud and Goldie Agatha.

In his political views Mr. Oxford is a democrat but while he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day, he does not seek or desire office as a reward for his party fealty. His life has been a busy and useful one and his activity has brought him the success which he now enjoys, making him one of the substantial farmers of the county.

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#### ROBERT H. COULTHARD.

Robert H. Coulthard, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits on section 11, Holt township, was born in Wisconsin, September 3, 1864, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Hutchinson) Coulthard, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. He is the eldest in a family of ten children and was but six or seven years of age when they settled in this county. In consequence he can well remember some of the hardships of the early days, for as soon as he was able he assisted in the work that was carried on on the home place and assumed some of its responsibilities. He remained there until 1891, when he married and set out

to make a home of his own. The habits of industry and the skill he had learned in his youth have stood him in good stead and he is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of fine arable land. On it he pursues a line of diversified agriculture, with what result is indicated by the excellent cultivation of his fields and the well cared for condition of his buildings.

In 1891 Mr. Coulthard was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Hartzel, who was born in Henry county, Iowa, and is a daughter of Samuel and Josephine (Sigler) Hartzel. The father came to Iowa in the early days of its colonization and when the Civil war was inaugurated enlisted in the Thirteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He is now living in Clayton township, this county, with his wife, who was born in Van Buren county, Iowa. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Coulthard: Robert Louis, Clyde Henry and Mary Lois. They are all at home and are being reared in the faith of the Christian church, the religious denomination to which their parents give their allegiance.

Mr. Coulthard is a republican in his political views and has held some responsible positions in the local affairs, having served for the past fifteen years as treasurer of the school board and for two terms having fulfilled the duties of a township trustee. He has demonstrated that the trust of the public reposed in him was not misplaced, though he is modest of his abilities, and does not seek to bring himself conspicuously before the voters of his locality.

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#### RICHARD W. SOPER, M. D.

Dr. Richard W. Soper is a prominent member of the medical profession and a surgeon of ability, who practices in Taylor and Union counties, where for the past three years he has been accorded a liberal patronage. A native of England, he was born in the city of London, July 9, 1869, and received his preliminary education in the public schools of the world's metropolis. He afterward studied medicine for four years at Guy's Hospital where he pursued a four years' course and later he devoted one year to further study in the Paris Polytechnic Institute. Wide research brought to him comprehensive knowledge and, splendidly trained for his chosen field of labor, he came to the new world in 1894, locating first in Cedar county, Iowa. There he purchased a farm and devoted a year to agricultural interests rather as an experiment, but this proved somewhat expensive and was not justified by results.

Then taking up the work of the profession for which he had prepared, Dr. Soper for two years acted as assistant to Dr. Jepson, one of the noted surgeons of the United States. Subsequently he became an army surgeon and spent two years at Fort Brady, Michigan. Later he was army surgeon for two years in the Philippine Islands and, resigning, he returned to the United States, locating at Creston, Iowa, where he continued until 1906, when he arrived in Conway. Here he resumed the private practice of medicine and surgery and in the meantime to his comprehensive college training had been added broad practical experience. He has performed some very critical and intricate operations since locating here and is regarded as one of the representative men of his profession.



He has also been a contributor to medical journals and his articles have been widely read. He belongs to the state and district medical societies, thus keeping in touch with the trend of modern thought in the profession and he is a member of the medical staff of the Cottage Hospital at Creston.

Dr. Soper was married in Kansas City, Missouri, on the 1st of November, 1902, to Miss Carolyn Rulon, a native of Illinois, who was born, reared and educated in Monmouth. She died September 9, 1909. Both the doctor and his wife were reared in the Episcopal faith. In fraternal lines he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. He has made many friends in this community and enjoys the hospitality of the best homes of Conway and this part of the county.

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### L. E. BEARD.

L. E. Beard, the story of whose life is the story of honest industry and thrift, has been aptly termed a man of purpose whose energy and determination are evidenced in the excellent appearance of a farm of two hundred and forty acres which he owns and cultivates in Ross township. His place is located on section 26 and in addition to this property he owns two other farms, one of seventy acres and another of eighty acres. These, too, are well improved and the agricultural interests of Mr. Beard are of such extent and importance as to class him with the representative and valued citizens of Taylor county. He dates his residence here from 1872, arriving when a youth of fifteen years. He was born near Sandwich, DeKalb county, Illinois, on the 8th of August, 1857.

His father, H. C. Beard, was born in Vermont, January 4, 1826, and was reared to manhood in the Green Mountain State, pursuing his education there, after which he removed westward and took up his abode in DeKalb county, Illinois. In that district he wedded Miss Sarah Frances Sears, who was born in New York but was reared in Illinois. Mr. Beard engaged in teaching in the graded schools of Sandwich and was otherwise connected with the educational interests of that locality as county superintendent of schools, which position he filled for two terms. He also engaged in farming near Sandwich but sold his farm in that locality about 1869 and for three years made his home in the city. He then came to Iowa in 1872, settling in Taylor county. He bought land and developed a farm in Ross township and as his financial resources increased he made further investment in property until he was the owner of nearly six hundred acres. Upon that place he spent his last years and for a considerable period was numbered among the foremost representatives of agricultural life in this part of the state. His wife died upon the farm in 1891 and Mr. Beard afterward lived with his children until his death in January, 1898.

L. E. Beard remained a resident of his native county until the removal to Iowa, since which time he has resided in Taylor county. He acquired his education in the district schools, in the public schools of Sandwich and in the high school of Bedford and later he engaged in teaching for one winter term. He was married November 15, 1887, in Ross township to Miss Nellie F. Myers, who was born in



MR. AND MRS. L. E. BEARD





Henry county, Iowa, but was reared in this county, and is a daughter of W. O. Myers, who was an early settler and met death here by accident.

Subsequent to his marriage Mr. Beard took up his abode on the place where he now resides. His has been a life of well-directed diligence, thrift and industry. He began his farming operations here with two hundred and forty acres of land and from time to time he has made other investments until he is now the owner of three good farm properties in Ross township, having in addition to the home place two tracts of land of eighty and seventy acres respectively. On the home farm he has erected a commodious and substantial two story frame residence, has also built a good barn and commodious sheds and outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock. He has planted a grove and set out an orchard and altogether has a well-improved farm on which none of the equipments of the model farm of the twentieth century are lacking. He gives considerable attention to the raising of corn and other cereals and he also raises and feeds stock, this proving a profitable source of income to him.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Beard have been born four children: George H., who is a graduate of the Bedford high school of the class of 1907 and is now engaged in farming, was married July 25, 1909, to Lulu Mick of this county; Edwin is a pupil of the Bedford high school; Mary and Helen are yet under the parental roof.

The parents are members of the Bedford Christian church and Mr. Beard is serving as one of its officers. In the work of the church he takes an active and helpful interest and his cooperation is also given to many movements for the public good. Politically he is a republican, well informed on the questions and issues of the day, and in local affairs he is somewhat prominent. He has been elected and served for two terms as assessor, has been identified for years with the schools in an official capacity and for some time has been president of the school board. He has also been census enumerator for the state at different times and has served as a delegate to the county conventions of the party. He is well known throughout this portion of the state, the extent and importance of his farming operations making him well known in agricultural circles, while his progressive citizenship and genuine personal worth have gained for him the warm regard of those with whom he has come in contact in every relation of life.

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#### REUBEN C. QUICK.

Reuben C. Quick, now living retired in Blockton, was for fourteen years closely identified with agricultural interests in Taylor county, ranking among the well known and prosperous farmers and stock raisers of Gay township. Born in Whitley county, Indiana, December 20, 1862, he is a son of Oliver and Sarah (Priest) Quick, natives of Ohio, where they were reared and married. The father engaged in agricultural pursuits in Ohio for some years and later removed to Whitley county, Indiana, being among the early settlers of that district. The region was largely wild and uncultivated at the time of his arrival and he was obliged to clear a space in the forest in order to erect his cabin. He



at once set about improving and developing the land and soon had one hundred and sixty acres of land under a good state of cultivation. Subsequently he sold this property and moved to Iowa, locating in Mahaska county near Oskaloosa, where for some years he devoted his attention to raising and shipping stock. Later he removed to Hancock county locating upon a farm, where his death occurred a few years afterward. His first wife, Mrs. Sarah (Priest) Quick, was taken ill and passed away while on a visit to Ohio from Indiana. Later Mr. Quick married again and is still survived by his second wife, who has also again married.

Reuben C. Quick was a little lad of ten years when, in 1862, he accompanied his parents upon their removal from Indiana to Iowa, the family locating in Mahaska county. There the period of his boyhood and youth were spent, while he acquired his education in the common schools of Oskaloosa. Under the parental roof he grew to manhood, in the meantime assisting his father in the cultivation of his farm, whereby he gained a good, practical knowledge concerning the best methods of tilling the soil, planting the various cereals and harvesting the crops. That his early training was thorough and comprehensive is indicated in the success which later attended his efforts after he had entered the business world upon his own account.

Mr. Quick was married on the 11th of March, 1875, to Miss Susan McDonough, who was born in Ohio, a daughter of Aden McDonough, also a native of that state. Her grandfather, who was born in Ireland, early came to America and was among the pioneer settlers of Ohio. In that state Mrs. Quick was reared and educated, and later removed to Mahaska county, Iowa, where she was married.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Quick began their domestic life upon a farm in Mahaska county, which Mr. Quick continued to cultivate until 1883, when he sold that property and came to Taylor county, purchasing a farm in Gay township. Directing his entire time and attention to its further improvement and cultivation, he repaired and remodeled the residence which stood upon the place, built a good windmill, commodious and substantial barns and outbuildings, and set out a good orchard. He was untiring in his efforts and through his unfaltering diligence and indefatigable perseverance he succeeded in making his farm, which consists of eighty acres located in the center of Gay township, one of the valuable and desirable properties of the community. He engaged in general farming, cultivating the crops best adapted to soil and climate, and in connection therewith gave much attention to the feeding and raising of stock, fattening from one to two carloads of live stock per year. Both branches of his business proved remunerative and he continued to prosper until the spring of 1909, when, feeling that the measure of success which he had attained justified his retirement from active labor, he left the farm and removed to Blockton, where he purchased a comfortable residence and has since made it his home, enjoying in well earned rest the fruits of his former toil.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Quick was blessed by the birth of two children. One daughter, Effie, passed away when only three years of age, while the surviving daughter is now the wife of Frank Cotterson, who is operating the Quick farm. They have a little son, Bruce Cotterson.



Mr. Quick and his wife are members of the Blockton Methodist Episcopal church, and their many good traits of character have gained for them the respect of the people among whom they reside. Politically Mr. Quick gives his allegiance to the republican party, and although never seeking nor desiring public office for himself, he takes an active interest in the affairs of the community, doing all in his power to promote the general welfare. During his many years of residence in Gay township he has become well known because of his strict business integrity and honorable manhood, and he ranks high among Taylor county's substantial and representative citizens.

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### JOHN JAMES O'CONNELL.

John James O'Connell, one of the substantial members of the agricultural community of Holt township, was born in Ireland in 1843 and is a son of Patrick and Margaret O'Connell. The parents were also natives of Ireland, where they were married and where the father pursued the life of a farmer until 1847, when the conditions in the land of his birth suggested the feasibility of his coming to America. After landing upon the shores of this republic he came straight to Iowa, locating near Dubuque, where he and his wife died when their son was but nine years old.

So early in life deprived of parental care, John James O'Connell had to make his own way as best he could. He received his education in the district schools and at the age of eighteen years enlisted in the Union army. It was in August, 1862, that he joined Company F, Twenty-first Iowa Volunteers as a private, and with his regiment participated in the engagements at Hartsville, Missouri; Port Gibson, Champions Hill and Black River Bridge. He also took part in the siege of Vicksburg, in the siege and capture of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely. He was taken ill with the measles and was confined to the regimental hospital, but he was never wounded nor taken prisoner, although he was a good soldier and was ever at his post of duty. At the close of the war he was mustered out of the army and returned to Dubuque county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming.

In 1873 Mr. O'Connell came to Taylor county, settling on section 15, Holt township, where he bought eighty acres of railroad land on ten years time. It was then but partly improved. He was in very moderate circumstances, many times subsisting upon the barest necessities, but he worked hard and was soon able to sell that place and purchase the one hundred and sixty acre farm on section 22 which has since been his home. This is a fine tract of land, well improved and adorned with a good house and other buildings suitable and commodious. On it he has toiled faithfully and with such success that from time to time he has been able to add to his holdings until he now owns six hundred and twenty acres in Holt township.

At the age of twenty-five Mr. O'Connell wedded Miss Margaret O'Connell, who, though she bore the same name, was not related to him. She was born in Iowa, March 1, 1850, and through her marriage, has become the mother of thirteen children. The family circle has not been broken by the hand of death



and consists of Daniel, who married Miss Winnie Feeney and lives in Corning, Iowa; William, who wedded Miss Frances Lard and lives in Montana; Frank, who, unmarried, remains at home; Henry, who married Miss Ellen Wolf and lives in Montana; Mary, who is the wife of James McDonald, of Grove township, Taylor county; Hannah, who married John McGraff, of Adams county, Iowa; Joseph, who married Miss Mary Cain and lives in Holt township; Ellen, the wife of William Robinson, whose home is in Nebraska; Robert, Annie and Gus, all three at home; Alice, who is clerking in Corning, Iowa; and Gertie, who is at home.

The family are members of the Catholic church at Corning and are devout in the performance of their religious duties. Politically Mr. O'Connell has ever been a stanch republican and cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln when he was the second time the candidate of his party. He has not been especially active in political affairs, but with a commendable public spirit he has served as township trustee for a period of eight years and for the past thirty years has been school director. The substantial position which he now enjoys in Holt township is entirely the result of his own efforts, for he did not even have the advantage of parental guidance which is the heritage of almost every boy, and many of the early years of his life were a constant struggle for the way to obtain the means of living. These obstacles and others he has surmounted and but few regrets can shadow the years as he looks back upon them.

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#### FILLMORE O. LEE.

Fillmore O. Lee gives his time and attention to the operation of a well-improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, located on section 2, Grove township. He is a native of the state of Iowa, born in Jackson county, June 24, 1851, a son of Thomas Lee. The latter was born in Illinois, in which state he was reared. Later he went to Wisconsin and during his residence in that state was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Preston. Following his marriage he removed to Missouri, where he spent two years, and subsequently in 1856, took up his abode in Jackson county, Iowa, remaining there one year. He then made a permanent location in Dubuque county when the city of Dubuque was only a cross roads village, containing three shanties. There Mr. Lee engaged in farming for many years and reared his family. He later disposed of his farm in Dubuque county and removed to Morris, Kansas, where he opened up a new farm and spent his remaining years, his death occurring in 1885. His wife survived him for many years, passing away in May, 1908, when she had reached an advanced age.

Fillmore O. Lee is one of a family of nine sons and four daughters, of whom the daughters and five of the sons survive. Mr. Lee was quite young when taken from his native county to Dubuque county, Iowa. He grew to manhood in the latter section and helped his father to carry on the work of the home place until he was twenty-two years of age. He then accompanied his parents on their removal to Kansas but he spent only one year in the Sunflower state and then re-

turned to Iowa. This time, however, he took up his abode in Taylor county, where for a time he was employed as a farm hand. Later he purchased a team and engaged in breaking prairie, breaking in all about four hundred acres. He carefully saved the money he acquired in this manner and eventually purchased eighty acres of raw land, which he improved and there made his home for seven years. He then sold the place to good advantage and invested his money in one hundred and twenty acres, on which he made improvements. The buildings were all swept away in a tornado but in due time they were all replaced and Mr. Lee made his home on that farm until 1900. He then disposed of that tract and purchased his present farm on section 2, Grove township, comprising one hundred and sixty acres. This place was partially improved but Mr. Lee erected a good country residence and barn, set out a grove and orchard, fenced the fields with hog tight woven wire fencing, dividing the farm into forty-acre tracts. He now has good improvements on his farm, which has greatly enhanced its value so that it is worth much more today than when Mr. Lee took possession nine years ago. In addition to raising the various cereals best adapted to soil and climate, he also feeds a large amount of hogs each year. He has made good use of his opportunities and has advanced from year to year but the methods which he follows are always most honorable and straightforward.

Mr. Lee was married in Taylor county, April 4, 1877, to Miss Cynthia E. Wilcox, a native of Jones county, Iowa, and a daughter of R. B. Wilcox, a prominent farmer of that section of the state. Their union has been blessed with one son and three daughters. Herbert assists his father in the work of the home farm. Roxie is the wife of Chris J. Trost, a farmer of Grove township. They have three daughters. Ettie is the wife of Homer Ramsey, operator and station agent for the Rock Island Railroad Company at Hartley, Iowa. Their family numbers three sons and one daughter. Mary is a young lady, still with her parents.

Mr. Lee has been a life long republican but the honors of office have no attraction for him, as he prefers to give his undivided time to his business affairs and leave the office holding to others. With the exception of the brief period passed in Kansas, Mr. Lee has always lived in Iowa and he has been an active factor in developing three good farms and in other ways has been an influential man in promoting the agricultural interests of the state. He possesses the resolution, perseverance and reliability so characteristic of his nation, and his name is now enrolled among the best citizens of Taylor county.

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#### A. P. EVANS.

A. P. Evans, who for many years has been numbered among the prominent business men and agriculturists of Taylor county, was one of the early pioneers who settled in Iowa while this state was still under territorial rule. Born in Illinois, near Chicago, in 1840, he is a son of the Rev. Jesse Evans, a native of Virginia. The latter was reared and educated in his native state and there wedded Priscilla Cade, who was born in Ohio. On leaving the Old Dominion, he removed



to Illinois and in 1840 came to Iowa, locating in Davis county, where he followed farming for a time. Later he engaged in business in Bloomfield and in 1854 came to Taylor county, establishing the second store in the village of Bedford. He became a prominent figure in community affairs and was a pioneer preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church in Taylor county. He served two or more terms as probate judge and also as postmaster of Bedford, taking an active interest in all matters of public moment. He continued a resident of that village for twenty-five years and then removed to Oregon, where his remaining years were passed.

Coming to Iowa in infancy, A. P. Evans was here reared and acquired his education in the common schools of Bedford. He remained at home until twenty-one years of age, when, hearing and heeding his country's call for aid, he joined the Fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry as a member of the regimental band in the fall of 1861 and served until discharged on account of disability, the whole band being mustered out in 1862. Returning to his home he clerked in the postoffice until 1864, and in that year, deciding to try his fortune in the west, he went to California, where he engaged in the manufacture of lumber and also in mining for about four years. At the expiration of that period he returned east by way of Nicaragua and New York. After arriving home he clerked in a store in Bedford for some time and then established a hardware store in that village, being engaged in this line of business for about sixteen years. He was very successful in this undertaking, being accorded a large and lucrative patronage, and he was recognized as one of the leading business men of the town. In 1886, however, he sold his hardware interests in Bedford and purchased a farm on section 35, Bedford township, where he now makes his home. He later added to his holdings until at present his home farm consists of four hundred and twenty acres, the property adjoining the Taylor county fair grounds. He has greatly improved the place, erecting upon it a large and attractive residence and two substantial barns, while he has also set out a fine orchard of fruit trees. Aside from general farming he devotes much time to the raising and feeding of stock, the high grade of which insures a ready sale upon the market.

On the 3d of June, 1869, in Bedford, Mr. Evans was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Fordyce, a daughter of Alfred Fordyce, her birth occurring in Pennsylvania, where she was reared and educated. In their family are two children, namely: Edna V., the wife of B. E. Paschal, a business man of Ingersoll, Oklahoma; and George R., who married Mabel Archer, a daughter of Dr. Archer of Bedford.

Mr. Evans still has a large number of friends in Bedford and is well known in financial circles of that town as the vice-president and also a stockholder and director of the Citizens Bank of Bedford. He is a member of the Baptist church and formerly belonged to the Masonic lodge but was recently demitted. His political allegiance is given to the republican party, upon which ticket he was elected township trustee and also a member of the city council, and he has been closely identified with school interests for several years. Coming to Iowa when he had scarcely completed his first year, almost his entire life has been spent in Taylor county, where he has witnessed the work of transformation that has been steadily and rapidly carried on, converting Bedford, which at the time of his arrival consisted of only a few log cabins into a city with all the semblance of a



growing and flourishing town. During his early residence here the people used to take up a collection and hire some one to go to Hawleyville for mail, as a postoffice had not been established in Bedford. Mr. Evans brought the first mail directed to the town. He has at all times borne his full share in the work of improvement and development and is recognized as one of the public-spirited citizens of this community. Upright and honorable in all of his dealings with his fellowmen, he has gained the confidence, respect and good will of all with whom he has been associated.

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### T. C. BUCHANAN.

T. C. Buchanan, now a resident of Clearfield, is one of the prominent and successful agriculturists and stockmen of Taylor county, owning four hundred and eighty acres of well improved and valuable farming property on sections 20, 21, 28 and 29, Grant township. The period of his residence in this county now covers almost four decades, for he took up his abode within its borders in the year 1870.

Mr. Buchanan was born on the 13th of March, 1848, in Washington county, Pennsylvania, where he was reared and educated. After attaining his majority he left the old home farm and in 1870 came to Taylor county, Iowa, purchasing a tract of one hundred and twenty acres in Grant township. A small portion of the land had been broken and a partially constructed dwelling stood on the place. Mr. Buchanan set resolutely to work and in due time had developed a good farming property and also erected the necessary buildings, hauling his lumber from Cromwell. As the years passed by and his financial resources increased, owing to his well directed labor and capable management, he gradually extended the boundaries of his place by additional purchase until it now comprises four hundred and eighty acres of rich and arable land. In 1903, he bought a farm of thirty-four acres adjoining the corporation limits of Clearfield, on which he made his home until the fall of 1909, when he sold the place and secured a home in Clearfield, which he remodeled and improved, it being his present residence. In addition to raising the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he makes a specialty of raising and feeding hogs and cattle, shipping from ten to twelve carloads of stock annually. The prosperity which he now enjoys is all the more creditable by reason of the fact that it has come as the direct result of his unremitting industry and perseverance, for he started out in life on his own account empty-handed. At the present time he owns more than five hundred acres of land in three well improved farms and is widely recognized as one of the most substantial and esteemed citizens of his community.

On the 11th of January, 1877, in Taylor county, Mr. Buchanan was united in marriage to Miss Dora Darlington, a native of Cedar county, Iowa, by whom he has two children. Hugh resides on the old home place and carries on farming and stock-raising in partnership with his father. He was joined in wedlock, at Clearfield, this county, to Miss Maud Brooker, who was born and reared in Taylor county. Their union has been blessed with two children, Roy and



Helen. Lois, Edna, Edith and Anna, the other children of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Buchanan, are all yet under the parental roof.

Where national questions and issues are involved Mr. Buchanan gives his political allegiance to the democratic party but at local elections casts an independent ballot, supporting the candidate whom he believes best qualified for the office in question. He has voted for every presidential nominee of the democracy since casting his first ballot for S. J. Tilden in 1872. He has capably served his fellow townsmen in the position of road overseer and likewise acted as school director for a number of years, the cause of education ever finding in him a stalwart champion. He joined the Masonic fraternity at Conway and is now a Master Mason, belonging to Clearfield Lodge, in which he has served in an official capacity for a number of years. His wife and daughters are devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he contributed liberally toward the erection of the Greenwood church. He is numbered among the valued citizens of Taylor county, having for almost forty years contributed to its agricultural development, while at all times his influence and aid are given on the side of general progress and improvement.

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#### WALTER R. FARNHAM.

A well improved farm of one hundred and twenty-two acres on section 7, Marshall township, is the home property of Walter R. Farnham, and he also owns another tract of seventy-seven acres situated on section 8 of the same township. He was born near Green Bay, Brown county, Wisconsin, August 18, 1861, one of six children born of the marriage of Horatio and Anna (Harmer) Farnham. The former was born in Genesee county, New York, and was there reared to farm life. He then went to Wisconsin and for a time worked in the lumber woods of that state, while for ten years he was a pilot on the Wisconsin river. In the meantime his parents had removed to Durant, Illinois, and the son spent several summers with them at that place. He was married near Green Lake, Wisconsin, to Miss Anna Harmer, who was a native of England and was a maiden of thirteen years when she accompanied her parents to this country, the family home being established in the Badger State. Following his marriage Mr. Farnham lived at Wrightstown, on the Fox river, for several years, during which time he carried on farming and lumbering. He later sold out and for some time traveled with his wife for the benefit of the latter's health. In 1877 he came to Taylor county, Iowa, and for several years operated rented land in Marshall township. After a time he took up his abode in Sharpsburg and still later removed to South Dakota and there spent his last years, passing away July 8, 1893, when he had reached the age of seventy-six years. His wife preceded him to the home beyond, her death occurring in Taylor county, July 8, 1885. Their family numbered four sons and two daughters: E. D., now a resident of Holyoke, Colorado; Ethan, who was reared in Taylor county and later went to Routt county, Colorado, where he served as sheriff and also won a reputation as a detective but died June 8, 1908; Horatio, who after reaching mature years had an arm shot off and on the

28th of December, 1904, passed away while undergoing a surgical operation; Lilly, the wife of Dr. Fred Farnsworth, at one time a practicing physician of Sharpsburg; and one daughter, who died in infancy.

Walter R. Farnham, the other member of the family, was reared in Wisconsin to the age of sixteen years, when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Taylor county in 1877. He remained with his father until he reached mature years when he started out to make his own way in the world, first working at farm labor for fifty cents per day. He also worked on the railroad for a time, and when he attained his twenty-first year he went to Nebraska and homesteaded a claim in Holt county. He broke the wild prairie and in due time placed his fields under cultivation. He also operated a threshing machine for a number of seasons in that state as well as in Taylor county. After two years spent in Nebraska he returned to Taylor county and purchased eighty acres of land which constitutes a portion of his present farm. The buildings were in a dilapidated condition and the soil was also run down. Mr. Farnham at once set to work to put his land in a state of cultivation and put up good buildings, thus making the place more attractive as well as valuable. From time to time he added to his holdings until he now has two hundred acres, in the midst of which stands a fine country residence and ample barns and sheds for stock and grain. He does a general farming and dairying business and also fattens about one hundred head of hogs annually, and in each direction in which he is bending his energies he is meeting with substantial success.

Mr. Farnham was married in Taylor county in May, 1886, the lady of his choice being Miss Nettie Johnson, who was born and reared in Henry county, Iowa. Their union has been blessed with a son and two daughters: Earl L., who farms a portion of the home place; Nellie, a young lady at home; and Fern.

Politically a republican, Mr. Farnham has never been active as an office seeker but is identified with the school board. He is a Master Mason, belonging to blue lodge at Gravity. He has never been slow in lending his aid and influence in the cause of any good movement and with the improvement and progress of Sharpsburg he has been especially interested and helpful, so that no man of the county deserves more prominent mention in its history than does he.

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#### FRANK CONNOR.

Frank Connor, who for the past eight years has capably served his fellow townsmen in the position of assessor of Platte township, owns and operates a neat and well improved farm of eighty acres on section 17, adjoining the corporation limits of Lenox, and also has forty acres in another tract. His birth occurred in Knox county, Illinois, on the 25th of January, 1865, and he is one of a family of four sons and three daughters, all of whom still survive with the exception of one of the sons. He was a lad of eleven years when he came to this county with his father and here grew to manhood, obtaining his education in the public schools. He remained on the home farm until he had attained his majority and on the 10th of February, 1890, was united in marriage to Miss Agnes Hayes.



During the next sixteen years he devoted his time and energies to the cultivation of a rented farm in Platte township and in 1907 purchased the place of eighty acres on section 17 where he now resides. He has brought the fields under a high state of cultivation and has placed many substantial improvements on the property, which in its neat and thrifty appearance indicates the supervision of a practical and progressive owner. His landed holdings also include another farm of forty acres in Platte township and he is widely recognized as one of the substantial agriculturists and representative citizens of the community. In addition to the production of the various cereals best adapted to climatic conditions, he is also engaged in the raising and feeding of stock, which branch of his business adds materially to his income.

At the polls Mr. Connor casts his ballot in support of the men and measures of the democracy. In 1901 he was elected to the position of assessor and by re-election has since remained in that office, the period of his incumbency now covering eight years. Both he and his wife are devoted communicants of the Catholic church, in the faith of which they were reared. He has lived in this county for a third of a century and has witnessed many changes here, for the conditions of frontier life have been replaced with the evidence of a modern and progressive civilization. With the growth and development he has been closely connected and he is a man of tried integrity and worth, who has the confidence and esteem of all.

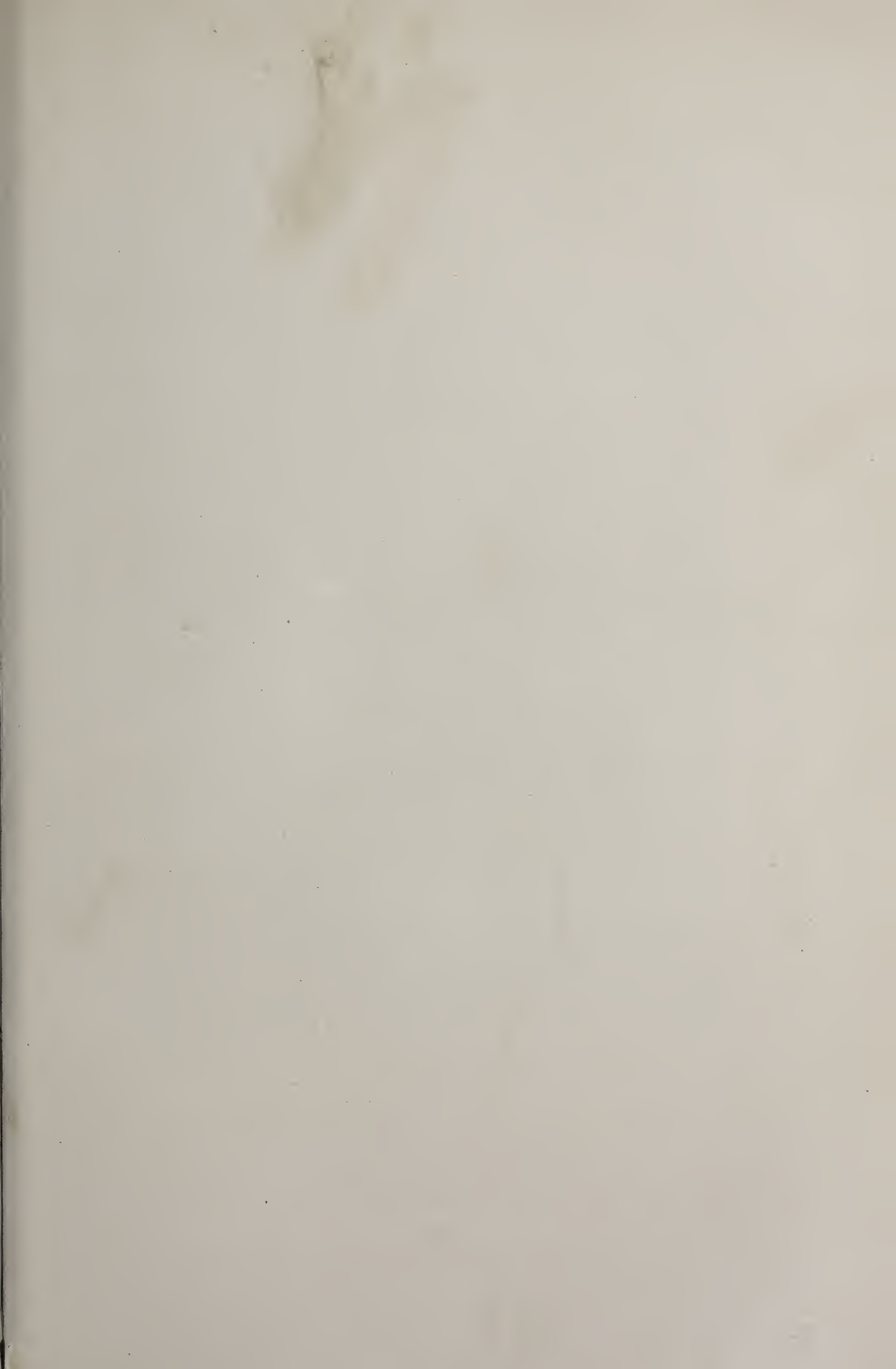
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#### J. C. McMASTER.

On the honor roll of the citizens of Taylor county appears the name of J. C. McMaster, whose death occurred at the old home on section 25, Polk township, March 3, 1902. He was numbered among the early settlers of this part of the state, having located in the county in 1857. He was at that time a young man of about twenty-nine years, his birth having occurred in Ireland in 1828. He spent the first twenty-four years of his life in the land of his nativity and then heard and heeded the call of the new world, believing its advantages and opportunities to be superior to those offered in Great Britain. Accordingly he crossed the Atlantic in 1852, settling first in Illinois, where he remained for about five years, while in 1857, he came to Iowa and made permanent location in Taylor county. This section of the state was then largely wild and unimproved and its residents were few. Much of the land was still in possession of the government and Mr. McMaster entered a tract of eighty acres, which he afterward sold. He then bought eighty acres, whereon the family now reside and moved to this farm.

It was on the 24th of November, 1859, that Mr. McMaster was united in marriage to Miss Sarah A. Thompson, a daughter of Daniel Thompson, who removed to Iowa about 1855 and was one of the first settlers of this county. He was a native of Owen county, Indiana, and removed thence to Texas, where he lived for seven years, on the expiration of which period he came to Iowa.

Following the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. McMaster they located on the farm where the family still reside and with determined purpose and indefatigable energy he took up the task of tilling the soil and improving the place, purchas-







J. C. McMASTER



SARAH A. McMASTER





ing more land from time to time until he became one of the large landowners and prosperous farmers of this locality, being well known in Taylor and Nodaway counties. He made substantial improvement on his place, including the erection of an attractive residence and good barns. As the years went by and he prospered in his undertakings, he gave to each of his sons a hundred acres of land and to one son, one hundred and seventy-five acres, and to his daughters he gave eighty acres each and also bestowed some valuable property on his wife. Since his death, Mrs. McMaster has purchased more land and now has over one hundred acres. She and her son have charge of the farm and the business interests of the property, and the farm is now carefully and successfully managed.

Mr. and Mrs. McMaster became the parents of ten sons and six daughters: Louisa Jane, who died when only about a year old; William D., a prominent and representative farmer of Polk township; Abram, who follows farming in Alabama; John Noble, who died May 4, 1908, at the age of forty-five years, leaving a family of eight children; Charles A., who is now engaged in the real-estate business in Idaho; Archie, who follows farming in Nodaway county, Missouri; Jerome, who is living on the home place; George, who is a resident farmer of Ross township; Amos, living in Hopkins, Missouri; Arthur, a farmer and prominent citizen of Nodaway county, Missouri; Harmon, who is connected with the Conservatory of Music at Maryville, Missouri, and also owning a half interest in the old home place; Mary, the wife of J. C. Beauchamp, now of Idaho; Martha, the wife of Reece George, living in Montana; Dora, who is residing with her brother William; Sarah and Alta, both at home. While their son, John Noble was returning from a trip to Chicago, a woman requested him to look after her baby while she got off the train at a certain station, but when the train started up again the woman did not appear and he found a note pinned to the child requesting him to see that it was well cared for. Taking it home, his parents at once announced their intention of keeping the helpless little one, who has since lived with the family and to whom they gave the name of Francis Train McMaster.

Mrs. McMaster and her daughters who are yet at home are members of the Baptist church. The family are numbered among the most prominent of Taylor county, occupying an enviable position in social circles, while their business connections are those of prominence.

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#### MARION R. GLASSGOW.

Marion R. Glassgow, a farmer of New Market, Taylor county, Iowa, who owns two hundred and forty acres of land in Dallas township, was born in this county, February 8, 1868, and is a son of William and Julia A. (Roberts) Glassgow. The paternal grandfather, who like his son bore the name of William, was of Scotch descent and had a family of eight children: William, Samuel, Charles, David, Newton, James, Mattie and Bell. The eldest, who is the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Ohio. During the four years of the Civil war he served with distinction to himself and to the honor of his country, as a member



of Company F, Twenty-ninth Iowa Infantry, and upon his return from service continued his work as a farmer. Mrs. William Glassgow was born in Illinois and is a daughter of Ambrose Roberts and the sister of Warren, Daniel, James and Lorenzo Roberts. She became the mother of five sons and two daughters, namely: Marion, Frank, George, John, Lola, Maria and William.

Marion R. Glassgow was reared at home on the farm under the guidance of his parents and received in the district school of his locality such formal preparation for life as could be gleaned through the short winter months it was in session. During the summer months he assisted with the farm work, so that by the time he had attained manhood he was fully competent to manage a farm of his own and intelligently and skillfully cultivate a large tract of land. Eight years ago he moved to his present farm, where with renewed energy he has carried on general farming and has engaged in stock raising and feeding. He has been more than ordinarily successful in his work, his fields produce abundantly, and the stock is subject to perhaps fewer of the misfortunes that overtake the average cattle man.

On the 14th of January, 1892, Mr. Glassgow was married to Miss Belle Hunter, who was born in Henry county, Iowa, in 1873, and is the daughter of Giles and Jennie (Armstrong) Hunter, and a granddaughter of George Hunter. She is one of a family of five children: Belle, Doudand, Ralph, John and Blaine. To Mr. and Mrs. Glassgow have been born a family of four, who are still living, Allie, Essie, Edward and Ray, while Opal Belle died in infancy.

In political matters Mr. Glassgow gives his support to the republican party, for whose candidate he has never failed to cast his vote from the first time he could exercise his franchise as a citizen of this republic. Though he is an advocate of good government, he has never sought public office for himself, finding his time fully occupied with his farming and stock interests and fully content with the returns they have brought him.

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C. W. ELY.

After many years spent in earnest toil as a farmer in Taylor county, C. W. Ely is enabled to put aside business cares and live retired in a modern home in Lenox, where he has resided the past two years. He still retains possession of his valuable farming property in Platte township, from which he derives a good annual income. Mr. Ely was born in Athens county, Ohio, December 14, 1859, a son of James Ely, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. When a youth of fifteen years C. W. Ely accompanied his parents on their removal from Ohio to Taylor county, Iowa, and here he helped his father to open up and develop the homestead farm in what was at that time, 1875, an unsettled district. He continued to assist his father in the work of the farm until he reached mature years, and then established a home of his own by his marriage, December 7, 1881, to Miss Ada M. Reeve, who was born in Illinois but was reared in Taylor county, having accompanied her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Reeve, to this county during her girlhood days.

Following his marriage Mr. Ely located on a farm belonging to his father and in connection with other land which he rented; continued to operate the place for several years. As time passed and he acquired a sum sufficient to justify him in purchasing land he became the owner of eighty acres, which constitutes a portion of his present holdings in Platte township. He made improvements on the place and in due time placed the land in good condition to farm and thus gathered good harvests each year. From the sale of his crops he gained the money that enabled him to invest in more land and today he is the owner of three hundred and sixty acres divided into two farms and supplied with good and substantial farm buildings, fences, orchards and groves, all of which improvements have been made by Mr. Ely. For many years he was busily employed in carrying on farm work and in feeding and fattening stock for the market, shipping two carloads of cattle and hogs each year. His success has been won through his own labor and through his judicious investments and thus it was in 1907 that he felt justified in putting aside business cares and taking life more easy. In that year he purchased a lot in Lenox and has recently completed one of the finest and most up-to-date residences in this section of Taylor county. He now occupies his new home, while his farms are being operated by his sons.

It was soon after taking up his abode in Lenox that Mr. Ely lost his wife, her death occurring in October, 1907. Her demise was the occasion of deep regret not only to the members of her own household, where she was known as a faithful wife and mother, but to a large circle of friends as well. She had become the mother of four children, two sons and two daughters. The eldest, James L., is married and is now located on a farm belonging to his father. He has one son, Marvin. Lulu B., is now the wife of Louis N. Walter, a son of Henri Walter, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work, and they make their home in Adams county, Iowa, where Mr. Walter follows farming. They have a son and daughter, Clifford and Ethel Walter. The next of the family is George G. Ely, who is married and operates one of his father's farms in Platte township. Julia B., is a young lady at home. Mr. Ely was married a second time on the 7th of November, 1908, in St. Joseph, Missouri, to Mrs. Lucy Berry. She was reared in Taylor county near the old home of Mr. Ely and they were companions during their youthful days. Mrs. Ely completed her education in the high school at Lenox and later gave her hand in marriage to a Mr. Berry, after which they located in St. Joseph, where Mr. Berry passed away. Mrs. Ely is a lady of many excellent traits of character and has not only renewed the acquaintanceship of many old friends in and near Lenox but has also gained many new friends during her short residence here.

Politically Mr. Ely is identified with the republican party and through reelection is serving his second term as township trustee. He has been identified with the school board for many years and at present is serving on the school board of Lenox. Mrs. Ely is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Lenox and is an active worker in both the church and Sunday-school. During the thirty-five years in which Mr. Ely has made his home in Taylor county he has seen great changes. Lenox at that time was but a crossroads village and he has seen it grow into a thriving and enterprising little city, while the country round about has become thickly settled with a progressive class of farmers who



take pride in keeping their farms in excellent condition. By patience and energy Mr. Ely has been an active factor in bringing these changes about and now in the evening of life he has wisely selected as a place for a quiet home the community which he has helped to establish.

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### WILLIAM WILDMAN.

More than forty years ago William Wildman came to Taylor county to cast in his lot with its pioneer settlers, and although he faced a difficult problem, he addressed himself to the task which western life presented with steadiness and courage, which as the years have gone by has won him success, as is evidenced by his valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres located in Gay township. He was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, June 23, 1840, a son of Manassa and Rachel (Fox) Wildman, who were likewise natives of that county, the former born June 9, 1815. He was there reared and followed farming throughout his entire business career. His first wife died in 1854, after which he was again married. His family numbered six sons and three daughters, of whom two sons and one daughter still survive, the brother of our subject being Joseph Wildman, who still lives in Pennsylvania, while the sister is Mary, the wife of Elias Cowell, a resident of Maloy, Ringgold county, Iowa. The father passed to his final reward in 1886, when he was seventy-one years of age.

William Wildman was reared on the home farm in the Keystone State and after arriving at years of maturity worked in the oil region of that state for a few years. He was married in Greene county, in July, 1867, the lady of his choice being Miss Irene Cowell, a native of that county and a daughter of Jacob Cowell, a farmer of Greene county.

Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Wildman located on a farm in Greene county, where he rented a tract. He believed, however, that the west offered better agricultural advantages and with the hope of more quickly acquiring a competence, in 1868 he made his way to Taylor county, Iowa, and for three years operated a tract of rented land. At the end of that time he found himself in possession of a sum of money sufficient to invest in property and accordingly became the owner of forty acres of raw land. He built a small house and barn on the place and then gave his attention to the development of the land. In due time he purchased an additional tract of forty acres and still later added eighty acres, so that his place now comprises one hundred and sixty acres; situated on section 27, Gay township. He planted an orchard and evergreen trees and other shrubbery on the place, while in 1903 he replaced his pioneer home with a modern residence. He has also enclosed his lawn with a neat iron fence and his place presents a very attractive appearance. He does general farming and also raises and feeds stock, fattening about eighty head of hogs for the market each year.

Mr. and Mrs. Wildman have had eleven children but three of the number died in childhood, while Ora D. died in the spring of 1906 at the age of twenty-six years. The surviving members are: John; Jair; W. R., who is engaged in

farming and is also acting as clerk of Gay township; L. W.; Myrtle O., a young lady at home; Mattie P. and Ersel B., also at home.

Mr. Wildman gives his political support to the democratic party and cast his first presidential ballot for George B. McClellan in 1864, while his last vote was cast in 1908 for W. J. Bryan. He has served at various times for twelve years as trustee of the township and for a number of years has been identified with the school board, at the present time serving as its president. He is a Master Mason, belonging to the lodge at Blockton. Mrs. Wildman is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Gay Center. Mr. Wildman is a man of tried integrity and worth, fully meriting the confidence of the people. More than forty years have come and gone since he arrived in Taylor county and in the intervening period he has been a prominent factor in advancing the agricultural interests of this section of the state. Well known in Bedford, Blockton and various sections of the county, his life history cannot fail to prove of interest to his many friends, by whom he is highly respected and esteemed.

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#### EDWARD LUTON.

Edward Luton owns a nicely improved farm of forty acres, situated on section 9, Grove township, which has been his home for about three decades. He was born in Pasquotank county, North Carolina, October 23, 1837, and was there reared to years of maturity, after which he went to Cherry Valley, New York. It was in the Empire State that he enlisted in 1861 as a member of Battery M, Third New York Light Artillery. He was in the Army of the Potomac, first under General Butler and later under General Burnside, participating in the second battle of the Wilderness, Missouri Bluff and Fort Wagoner, while later he was with his command at Washington, North Carolina. He was also in the siege of Petersburg and the engagements at Richmond and Cold Harbor. Becoming ill with a fever he spent a month in a hospital at Fort Hatteras. He rejoined his regiment at Newberne, North Carolina, and served till the close of hostilities. He was present when General Lee surrendered and saw him deliver his sword to General Grant, who declined to accept it. Mr. Luton was honorably discharged at Syracuse, New York, in July, 1865.

After his military career Mr. Luton spent two or three years working in a sawmill on the Gulf of Mexico. He journeyed from the gulf up the river to Cairo, Illinois, and later went to Missouri, where he worked on railroad construction. After a time spent in that way he farmed for three years in Clay county, Missouri, and subsequently went to Lee county, Illinois, working at farm labor near Dixon. He spent five years in the employ of one man and while residing in that district established a home of his own by his marriage in 1870 to Miss Elsie Hill, who was born in Lee county and engaged in teaching prior to her marriage.

Following his marriage Mr. Luton continued to farm in Lee county for two years and then journeyed westward, locating on a raw tract of eighty acres in Marshall township, Taylor county. He improved the place and cultivated the



land for six years. He then disposed of that farm and purchased his present home farm of forty acres, situated on section 9, Grove township. On this he has erected a nice country residence, a barn and other outbuildings, and although the place had not a tree or shrub upon it when Mr. Luton took possession it now has a good bearing orchard, while shade trees not only add to the attractive appearance of the place but afford comfort as well. Mr. Luton is not engaged in farming to any great extent but makes a business of feeding stock and has met with merited success in this venture.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Luton has been blessed with a son and daughter. Albert, who is married and has one daughter, has made his home in Canada for the past four years. Effie is the wife of Fred Wheeler, a barber of Clearfield.

Mr. Luton cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln and has supported each republican nominee since that time. He belongs to the G. A. R. post at Lenox, while his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church and his daughter of the Christian church. He started out in life in a humble way but is now numbered among the citizens of worth in Taylor county. He possesses a patriotic spirit and at all times is actuated by a fidelity to his country and her welfare.

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#### SAMUEL WILLIAM BRAND.

Among the younger class of residents of Washington township who are meeting with success in their farming operations is Samuel William Brand, owning and operating a farm of one hundred and twenty acres of fine land. A native of Illinois, he was born in McDonough county on the 17th of March, 1881, and is a son of George and Sarah Rosella (Crabb) Brand. The father, who was born in Illinois in 1853, still survives and makes his home upon his farm in Washington township, where he is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was married in 1880 to Miss Sarah Rosella Crabb, and in their family were four children, Samuel William, Ezra, Lena and Rosa, the last two being now deceased. The Crabb family originally came from Illinois and Mrs. Brand was one of a family of three children, the others being: John M, of Clarinda; and Ella, the wife of Jesse Bullock. After the death of his first wife George Brand was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Dell Clark, by whom he has one daughter, Bessie. By her former marriage Mrs. Brand has three daughters: Pearl, Eva and Mable.

Samuel William Brand is indebted to the public schools of Atchison county, Missouri, for the educational privileges which he enjoyed, remaining a student thereof until 1900. The periods of vacation were devoted to assisting his father in the work of the farm, wherein he learned lessons concerning the value of energy, industry and perseverance. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-two years of age, when, crossing the threshold of the business world, he engaged in agricultural pursuits on his own account, purchasing the farm upon which he now resides. This consists of one hundred and twenty acres of fine land, and that his early training upon the home farm was thorough and com-

prehensive is indicated by the fact that his place is today one of the well-improved farming properties of the locality, responding readily to the care and labor bestowed upon it and bearing evidence in its well-kept and attractive appearance of the progressive and up-to-date methods of its owner. Aside from tilling the soil and raising the cereals best adapted to the soil and climate, Mr. Brand devotes considerable time to raising cattle, horses and hogs. He has also raised some sheep. His efforts along the line of his chosen work have been crowned with gratifying success during his brief business career, and as he has prospered he has added various improvements to his farm, having erected one of the best and most attractive residences in his section of the township. He has also built substantial barns and outbuildings which stand as monuments to his enterprise and thrift.

Mr. Brand was united in marriage in Clarinda, Page county, Iowa on the 28th of December, 1904, to Miss Maud Gertrude Gilmore, a daughter of J. W. and Emma Gilmore, the former a prominent farmer residing in Nebraska. Unto this union was born, April 16, 1907, a daughter Edna Irene, who is the light and life of the household. Although Mr. Brand is one of the recent arrivals in Washington township, he has, nevertheless, during his brief residence here gained many friends and his salient characteristics are such as to command the honor, respect and good will of all with whom he is associated. A man young in years, he has already won a degree of success in his business ventures that augurs well for a bright future.

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#### MELBON ROSCOE BRANT.

Melbon Roscoe Brant, a well known representative of the legal fraternity of Bedford, was born at Fontanelle, Adair county, Iowa, October 23, 1880. He is a son of Adam and Mary G. (Gregory) Brant, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Indiana. The paternal grandfather was David Brant, who was likewise born in the Keystone State and was of Scotch-German descent. He died there when only about thirty-five years of age. His wife bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Taylor and, surviving her husband for many years, reached the age of sixty-six. They were the parents of six children, of whom three are now living: Adam, a resident of Kansas City, Missouri; Cyrus, whose home is in Frankfort, Indiana; and Hannah, the wife of Edward Simms, of Dayton, Indiana.

Adam Brant was for many years a farmer and live stock dealer and is now engaged in dealing in live stock at Kansas City, Missouri. He wedded Miss Mary G. Gregory, a daughter of David Gregory, who was born in Indiana in pioneer times and was of Scotch-German lineage. He devoted his life to general farming and died at the age of thirty-six years. His wife also passed away at a comparatively early age. In their family were four daughters and a son: Mary G., who became Mrs. Brant; Sophia, who is married and lives in Portland, Oregon; Ida, who is married and resides in Eugene, Oregon; Maggie, the wife of James Hanna, of Hood River, Oregon; and Joseph B., a resident



of Chicago. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Brant was blessed with three sons and a daughter, as follows: William J., a druggist of Glenwood, Iowa; Ramer E., a train dispatcher residing at El Reno, Oklahoma; Melbon R., of this review; and Elda June, the wife of Walter T. Matson, an attorney of Wichita, Kansas. The parents are members of the United Brethren church and the warm esteem in which they are uniformly held indicates the integrity and uprightness of their lives.

Melbon R. Brant, whose name introduces this record, was reared in Adair county, Iowa, and was graduated from the Fontanelle high school with the class of 1898. Desiring to follow a professional career, he then removed to Iowa City and entered the law department of the state university, from which he won his LL. B. degree when nineteen years of age. Because of his youth he could not then be admitted to the bar but on the day on which he attained his majority he was licensed to practice in the courts of Iowa and opened his office in Bedford, where he still remains. On the 1st of January, 1907, he was elected county attorney and in that office he discharged his duties with promptness and fidelity. His record has at all times been that of a forceful lawyer, whose devotion to his clients' interests is proverbial and yet he never forgets that he owes a still higher allegiance to the majesty of the law.

On the 15th of January, 1907, Mr. Brant was married to Miss Fannie Fern Fordyce, a native of Platteville, Iowa, and a daughter of Arthur B. and Rachel (Bowers) Fordyce, who were natives of Pennsylvania and became early settlers of Taylor county, Iowa, where they reared their family of three children, the brothers of Mrs. Brant being John Fordyce, living in Platteville, and Benson W. Fordyce, who is practicing dentistry. Mr. and Mrs. Brant have one child, Melbon Roscoe, Jr., born August 14, 1908.

Mr. and Mrs. Brant are members of the Methodist church and are held in high respect by all who know them by reason of their allegiance to those principles, movements and activities which are for the benefit of the individual and for the public good. Fraternally he is connected with Bedford Lodge, No. 91, I. O. O. F., and politically is a republican.

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#### ARTHUR LEONARD.

Arthur Leonard, a successful farmer and sheep raiser of Holt township, is the son of Daniel and Jane (Heath) Leonard, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. He was born upon his father's homestead in this county, September 14, 1868, and while he attended the district school he worked for his father, who was just emerging from the hardships which surrounded him when he settled in this part of the state. Reared to agricultural pursuits he has continued to follow that vocation from choice and now owns one hundred and sixty acres of land, which is finely improved and cultivated by the most advanced methods. He pursues general farming but is also interested, with his father and his brothers, in the importing and breeding of Shropshire sheep. This industry has

won him not only success financially, but also a reputation throughout the state that is really enviable.

On the 25th of February, 1892, Mr. Leonard was united in marriage to Miss Esther Coulter, who was born in La Salle county, Illinois. Her father, John Coulter, now deceased, was one of the agricultural community of Holt township and was widely known. Mrs. Leonard is a member of the Christian church, but her husband does not affiliate with any denomination. Politically he finds himself in sympathy with the platform of the republican party and has always been active in local affairs. For the past sixteen years he has rendered valuable assistance to the cause of education as one of the school directors and for eight years has served the community as constable. He is also much interested in fraternal matters and active in the various lodges to which he belongs. He has attained to the third degree in Masonry, in the lodge at Corning; belongs to the camp of the Modern Woodmen of America at Iveyville; and to that of the Woodmen of the World at Corning. With his wife he is also a member of the Royal Neighbors at Iveyville. Still in the prime of life, he may well look forward to many years of prosperous activity. So far he has been well repaid for his efforts and there is every reason to be hopeful of the future.

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#### JOHN D. MOORE.

John D. Moore, a well-known and successful agriculturist and stockman of Washington township, is the owner of a finely improved and productive farm of two hundred acres. His birth occurred in Davis county, Iowa, on the 16th of June, 1861, his parents being Edward W. and Emeretta (Ogden) Moore. The paternal grandparents of our subject were Jabis and Alatha (Baker) Moore, who reared a family of ten children, as follows: Edward W., Garrett, John, Elizabeth, Lila, Thomas, Daniel, Robert, James and Jabe. Mr. and Mrs. John Ogden, the maternal grandparents of John D. Moore, had a family of three children, namely: Emeretta, Aaron and Albert. Unto Edward W. and Emeretta (Ogden) Moore were born seven children: John D., Green, Ira, Mary Ellen, Garrett, Hattie and Frank.

When a little child of three years John D. Moore was brought by his parents to Taylor county, this state, and has here continued to reside to the present time. He obtained a good practical education as a student in the district schools and early in life became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist, aiding his father in the work of the home farm. He has devoted his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits throughout his entire business career and is now the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres in section 19, Washington township. This is a neat and well improved property, carefully cultivated and displaying in its attractive appearance the energy and diligence of the owner. He breeds horses, cattle and hogs and also buys and feeds cattle, this branch of his business contributing not a little to his annual income.

Mr. Moore has been married twice. On the 3d of July, 1883, he wedded Miss Addie Marshall, a daughter of William and Amanda (Burr) Marshall, by



whom he had five children, namely: Jessie, Nettie, Oma, Loretta and Nina. On the 3d of July, 1900, he was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Lizzie Hunt, a daughter of Philip and Jane (Mosier) Clouse. The one child of this marriage, Mildred, is deceased, and they now have an infant daughter.

Politically Mr. Moore is a stalwart advocate of the republican party, believing that its principles are most conducive to good government. Fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Gravity, Iowa. Having lived in this county for a period of forty-five years, he is well and favorably known within its borders and is widely recognized as one of its most substantial, enterprising and representative citizens.

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### HOWARD SEYMOUR STRAIGHT.

Howard Seymour Straight, living on section 14, Jackson township, is one of the active and progressive farmers and stock raisers of this part of the state. His time and energies are given to the development and improvement of four hundred acres of land, constituting one of the valuable farms of the county. Diligent and persistent, he allows no obstacle to bar his path to success, if it can be overcome by honest and persistent effort.

He was born in Jackson township, Taylor county, October 3, 1866, and is a son of Truman Straight, a native of New York, whose birth occurred near Oswego in 1824. He was reared, however, in Ohio, to which state he removed with his parents during his boyhood days, the family home being established near Cleveland. He pursued his education in the public schools there and afterward became a teacher in the schools of Ohio. Following his removal to Lee county, Iowa, he again engaged in teaching for several years. He was married in that county to Miss Mary Kemery, who was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1830, but was reared in Iowa. At a later date Truman Straight removed to Taylor county, where he opened up a farm and spent his last years, his death occurring in 1868. His wife survived him until 1896, and reared their family of children, numbering five sons and three daughters, of whom two daughters and four of the sons are yet living.

Howard S. Straight was reared on the home farm in this county and remained with his mother through the period of his minority, acquiring his education in the district schools and receiving thorough training in the business of a farm. Having arrived at years of maturity he chose as a companion and helpmate on life's journey Miss Effie L. Wheat, whom he wedded in Sheridan, Missouri, on the 6th of September, 1891. She was born in Lee county, Iowa, but was reared in Worth county, Missouri, and engaged in teaching prior to her marriage. Unto this union were born seven children: Seymour S., who is now attending the Bedford high school; Selma M., who is also attending school in Bedford; Sola Alice, Leonard C., Iness Ethel and Clio E., all under the parental roof; and Serena, who met death by accident when only a year old.

Prior to his marriage Mr. Straight had purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land and had taken up his abode thereon. To this farm he brought his



MR. AND MRS. H. S. STRAIGHT





bride at the time of their marriage and began the cultivation and improvement of the place. They lived in a log cabin for three years, but later this primitive home was replaced by a more commodious frame residence and the work of improvement in other lines was also continued, so that the place was transformed into a productive and substantial farm. Mr. Straight purchased more land from time to time as his financial resources permitted until he is now the owner of four hundred acres. In the midst of this place stands a good residence together with substantial outbuildings and upon the farm is a fine grove and also an orchard. In the feed lots and pastures are found high-grade horses, mules, cattle and hogs and the fields through the spring and summer give promise of rich, golden harvests in the autumn. Altogether the farm presents a most attractive appearance, constituting one of the leading features of the landscape. Politically Mr. Straight is a republican and religiously is a member of the Christian church, while his wife holds membership in the Baptist church.

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### J. F. WALKUP.

J. F. Walkup is numbered among the large landowners and substantial citizens of Taylor county, dating his residence here from 1870. He was born in Greenbrier county, West Virginia, May 9, 1852, and was there reared to the age of seventeen years, having been trained to the duties of farm life. In 1870, being then a youth of eighteen, he came to Taylor county, Iowa, where for six years during the summer months he was employed at farm labor. For four years during the winter months he continued his studies in the schools of this county, his earlier education having been acquired in the schools of his native county. After completing his education he was engaged for two years during the winter seasons as a teacher but he continued to carry on farm work during the summer months.

It was in 1880 that Mr. Walkup established a home of his own by his marriage in Clayton township, this county, to Miss Mary Mehan, their wedding ceremony being performed on the 9th of March of that year. Mrs. Walkup was born and reared in this county. Following their marriage they located on a farm of eighty acres in Clayton township, which Mr. Walkup had previously bought. After about four years, however, he disposed of that land and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of his present home place in Gay township. This tract was but partly cleared but in due time Mr. Walkup had the entire place under cultivation. He further improved the farm by the erection of a house and outbuildings, set out an orchard, built fences and made it a valuable property. As time passed and the sale of his crops brought him good financial returns, he invested his money in more land from time to time until the home place now comprises two hundred and forty acres. In 1908 he erected a modern and substantial farm residence and added more outbuildings and his place today is one of the best in his section of the county. In addition to carrying on general farming he also gives attention to raising and feeding stock, annually raising a carload of hogs. Mr. Walkup also owns another farm of eighty acres, which he rents. It will thus be seen that he made no mistake in locating in Taylor county during



its pioneer period, for through his labors and his wise judgment he has accumulated a good property.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Walkup has been blessed with three sons and two daughters, namely: Blanche, the wife of Lon Keith, a resident of Canada; Maude, the wife of Earl Gordon, a resident farmer of Clayton township; Roy C., who is on a ranch in New Mexico; and Glen and Frank, who are still at home.

Politically Mr. Walkup is a democrat. For a number of years he has served as township trustee, while he has also filled the office of road supervisor and has been identified with the school board as a director. Popular and public-spirited, he has been chosen by his party as a delegate to county conventions. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Baptist church. Since coming to the county almost four decades ago he has seen many changes as the railroads have been built through this section, the telephone and telegraph lines introduced and many other modern and needed improvements made. He has been a leader in much of the work that has been accomplished and takes a just pride in seeing Taylor county rank with the best sections of the state of Iowa.

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#### J. W. FOWLER.

J. W. Fowler, a prosperous agriculturist residing on section 13, Grant township, owns and operates a neat and well improved farm of eighty acres within two miles of Clearfield, while his landed holdings also include an eighty-acre tract in Platte township and another valuable farm situated about three miles from Clearfield. He was born in Elmira township, Stark county, Illinois, on the 27th of June, 1837, and there grew to manhood on the old home farm. He remained with his father until he had attained his majority and then started out as an agriculturist on his own account, being actively identified with farming interests in Toulon township for several years.

In 1879 Mr. Fowler made his way westward to Taylor county, Iowa, purchasing a farm four miles west of Clearfield in Grant township. For twelve years he devoted his attention to the cultivation and further improvement of this property, erecting thereon a commodious and substantial residence and barn, fencing the fields and also setting out an orchard. On disposing of that farm he took up his abode in Clearfield, where he resided for three years, in the meantime buying a tract of land of thirty-five acres adjoining the corporation limits of the town. After the place had been in his possession for five years he sold it to good advantage. Previously he had purchased a farm southwest of Clearfield in Grant township, which he likewise sold after residing thereon for five years. On the expiration of that period he bought the farm of eighty acres in Platte township which is still in his possession, though he leases the place. In 1895 he purchased the farm on section 13, Grant township, on which he resides and where he has since carried on his agricultural interests with excellent success. He built a modern residence and substantial barn in 1900. In fact the place is now lacking in none of the equipments and accessories of a farm of the twentieth century. Energetic, enterprising and industrious.

labors as an agriculturist have been rewarded with a gratifying annual income and he has long been numbered among the most substantial and respected citizens of the community.

In October, 1893, at Winterset, Iowa, Mr. Fowler was united in marriage to Mrs. Mina Van Wye, the widow of George Van Wye. A native of Pennsylvania, she was reared and married in that state but later took up her abode in Iowa.

Mr. Fowler cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and for several years voted the republican ticket but later became identified with the democracy and has since supported its men and measures. The honors and emoluments of office have never had any attraction for him, however, and he has always preferred to devote his undivided attention to his private affairs. His wife is a devoted and faithful member of the United Presbyterian church at Clearfield. The period of his residence in this county now covers thirty years and he has therefore been a witness of much of its development and growth. At the time of his arrival here the town of Clearfield was still in its infancy and Lenox was but a crossroads village. He has not only been an interested witness but also an active participant in the arduous labor which was necessary to bring about this wonderful transformation, having improved and developed four different farms. He has now passed the seventy-second milestone on life's journey and receives the respect and veneration which should ever be accorded one who has traveled thus far on this earthly pilgrimage and whose career has been at all times upright and honorable. Throughout life he has been an extensive reader, so that he is today a man well informed on current topics as well as subjects in general, and he is the owner of a good library.

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### L. C. BOLTINGHOUSE.

L. C. Boltinghouse, a successful farmer and extensive landowner of Grove township, whose well-directed efforts in agricultural lines are meeting with substantial success, was born in Monroe county, Indiana, on the 23d of May, 1854. He is a son of Isaac Boltinghouse, who was born in Tennessee and removed to Indiana with his parents when a boy. His occupation was farming.

No event of special importance came to vary the routine of life for L. C. Boltinghouse during the period of his boyhood and youth, which were spent on his father's farm in Indiana amid the scenes and environment of rural life. Although he attended the district school for a brief period, he is mostly self-educated, having acquired a broad knowledge through extensive reading and tuition in later years. His practical training, however, was thorough and intensive and he early learned the best methods of plowing, planting and giving his father the benefit of his assistance until he reached manhood. He was married on the 6th of August, 1874, to Miss Sarah Freeman, a native of Greene county, Indiana, who was reared in Nebraska until eleven years of age, which she returned to Indiana and in Monroe county gave her hand to our subject.



After his marriage Mr. Boltinghouse entered the business world on his own account, wisely choosing as his life work the occupation to which he had been reared. The young couple began their domestic life on a farm in Rock Island county, Illinois, where they remained for three years, and then, in 1879, they came west to Iowa, locating in Grove township, Taylor county. Here he purchased eighty acres of his present farm which, when it came into his possession, was but slightly improved. He at once took up the task of its further development and under his careful management and wisely directed labor the fields were brought under a high state of cultivation. During the first few years, however, the work of progress was very slow for he was handicapped by sickness and many hardships and privations, but his indomitable energy and determination would brook no obstacles in the path to success and with the passing of the years he became very prosperous, from time to time being able to add to his original purchase until today his farm consists of six hundred and forty acres, constituting him one of the large landowners of the locality. The farm is all in one body located on sections 18 and 19, Grove township, and has become one of the valuable and desirable properties of the locality. In 1905 Mr. Boltinghouse erected a comfortable and attractive residence, while in the rear he has built two substantial barns and commodious outbuildings. He has set out a good orchard and grove, and everything about the place indicates that he has kept in touch with the modern spirit of progress which is manifest in agricultural lines. In connection with general farming he engages in raising and feeding stock, fattening from one to two carloads of cattle and hogs annually. His business interests are all wisely and carefully managed and he is enjoying a most gratifying measure of success from the fact that both branches of his business—the raising of grain and the raising of stock—are proving sources of an excellent income.

As the years have come and gone the home of Mr. and Mrs. Boltinghouse has been blessed with eleven children, seven sons and four daughters. The sons are: Joe, who is married and carries on general farming in Grove township; James, also married and farming in this township; Charles, who is married and is engaged in agricultural pursuits in North Dakota, being an extensive wheat grower, raising sixteen thousand bushels of wheat in the year 1909, his entire grain crop aggregating thirty thousand bushels; A. L., who is married and follows farming in Holt township; Orville L., who is married and resides with the father and operates the home place; and Walter and Floyd, who are still under the parental roof. The daughters are as follows: Bertha, the wife of Claude Carter, of Grove township; May, who married A. Murray, of North Dakota; Eva, the wife of Clarence Armstrong, of Grove township; and Ethel, residing at home. All of the children were born in Taylor county with the exception of two.

Mr. and Mrs. Boltinghouse hold membership in the Christian church, in which he is serving as deacon, and are people who are highly thought of throughout the community by those who recognize and appreciate true worth of character. Politically he has voted the republican ticket since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, and has ever been a stalwart supporter of the principles of that party, although he has never sought nor desired public office as a reward for party fealty. He was, however, identified with the school system



for several years, the cause of education finding in him a warm champion. A resident of Taylor county for over thirty years, he has, during this period, seen wild lands reclaimed and new farms opened up, and has ever taken his part in the work of development and improvement which has been carried forward since his arrival here. Early trained to habits of industry, thrift and integrity, these characteristics have proven salient elements in his business career and have been the means by which he has attained to the high degree of prosperity which is today his. He has made many acquaintances throughout the district and is popular with a large circle of warm friends who greatly admire and respect him for his many excellent traits of character.

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T. W. BENNETT, M. D.

Dr. T. W. Bennett, making his home in Lenox, is actively engaged in the practice of medicine in Taylor, Union, Adams and Ringgold counties. He has here resided since March, 1882, and in the intervening years has proven his worth as a citizen and as a representative of the medical fraternity. His thorough understanding of the principles of medicine and his conscientious discharge of his duties have gained him the unqualified respect of all with whom he has been associated.

He is one of Iowa's native sons, his birth having occurred in Washington county, December 1, 1852. His parents were William and Catherine (Wilkins) Bennett, natives of New Jersey and of Nashville, Tennessee, respectively, but were married in Washington county, Iowa, in 1845. The father was of German descent. On coming to Iowa in 1836, he first located in Des Moines county and from there removed to Washington county, where he entered a tract of government land. He died upon that farm in 1879 at the age of sixty-nine years, but his wife passed away in Wathena, Kansas, at the age of seventy-nine. Both were earnest and consistent members of the Presbyterian church and throughout life the father followed the occupation of farming.

Dr. Bennett was reared in Crawfordsville, Iowa, where he attended the public schools, after which he continued his studies in Iowa City and in the Mount Pleasant College. A review of the business field and the opportunities offered along the various industrial, commercial and professional lines led him to the conclusion that he preferred the practice of medicine as a life work and to this end he studied under the direction of Dr. J. D. Miles, of Crawfordsville. He afterward pursued a course in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Keokuk and was graduated with the class of 1877. He then practiced for five years in his native town, after which he removed to Lenox and is now one of the oldest practitioners of Taylor county, having for twenty-seven years followed his profession in this part of the state. Throughout the entire period he has kept abreast with the progress made by the medical fraternity, his investigations and researches bringing to him wide and comprehensive knowledge. He is a member of the Taylor County Medical Society, the Iowa State Medical Society and the Southwestern Medical Society and has read a number of papers before their meetings.



Dr. T. W. Bennett was married in Crawfordsville, Iowa, July 3, 1876, to Miss Emma Jackson, a native of Canada, who came to this state during her early girlhood and was here reared. They have no children of their own but have an adopted son, Floyd V. Bennett, who has been a member of their household from the age of three years. They are prominent in the social circles of the city and county, having an extended circle of warm and admiring friends.

Aside from his practice the Doctor is a director in the First National Bank of Lenox, of which he was one of the organizers. He is also president of the Clearfield & Lenox Mutual Telephone Company, which he aided in promoting, was one of the promoters and is the president of the Electric Light & Power Company and is the owner of considerable real estate, having made investments in land in Michigan and Texas. He is also the owner of valuable property in Lenox, where he has built several residences. Politically he has been a life-long republican, casting his first presidential ballot for Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876. He filled the office of coroner for two terms and in 1908 higher political honors were conferred upon him in his election to the state senate from the sixth district. While a member of the general assembly he gave consideration to each question which came up for settlement and left the impress of his individuality for good upon the work of the senate. He served as a member of the ways and means committee and also the committees on insurance, pharmacy, public health, suppression of intemperance, constitutional amendments, senatorial and representative, suffrage and labor. He has frequently been a delegate to the county and state conventions and his labors have been effective forces in promoting the growth and insuring the success of his party.

For years Dr. Bennett has been a trustee and a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is a member of the Masonic fraternity, being connected with Lenox lodge, the chapter at Corning, the commandery at Creston and the Mystic Shrine at St. Joseph, Missouri. For eleven years he was master of Tremont Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Lenox. Both he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star and Mrs. Bennett is connected with the Relief Corps, of which she was president for years. The Doctor ranks as one of the most public-spirited citizens of Taylor county, his labors constituting an important element in general progress and improvement, while in his profession he stands among the foremost in this section of the state.

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#### HENRY COULTHARD.

Henry Coulthard, one of the successful farmers of Holt township, Taylor county, Iowa, whose progress has been due solely to his own efforts, was born in County Durham, England, September 15, 1834. He received a very limited education in the land of his birth and at the age of eleven years began to work in the mines. At the age of twenty he came to the United States, confident that he could better his condition here were he but to try. In 1854 he found employment in the mines of Lafayette county, Wisconsin, where he remained two years, and then went to Virginia, where an uncle of his lived and where he again worked in



the mines. In 1861 he went to Wisconsin for the second time and shortly after his return, the Civil war having been inaugurated, he enlisted in Company C, Fiftieth Wisconsin Volunteer Regiment. For one year he saw active service in Missouri and the Dakotas, and then, in Sioux City, was mustered out. He had been made clerk of the regiment and was six months in the hospital, where he contracted catarrh from which he is still a sufferer.

In 1871 Mr. Coulthard came to Taylor county, Iowa, driving a span of mules across the prairies from his Wisconsin home. He owned, however, in addition two yoke of oxen, two cows and two calves, and purchased eighty acres of railroad land upon his arrival here. It was unimproved at the time and one of the first things he did was to put up a board shanty as a shelter for himself and his family. This remained his home for three or four years, when he erected the frame dwelling which he occupies at present. He set about clearing his land, making it ready for cultivation, and by his industry has reaped from it plentiful crops. As an increasing income rewarded his efforts he bought land extensively and now owns six hundred and forty acres, which are being farmed by his sons.

In 1863, while a resident of Wisconsin, Mr. Coulthard was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hutchinson. She had been born in Yorkshire, England, and was but two weeks old when her parents started upon their journey to America. They located in Wisconsin, where Mrs. Coulthard grew to maturity. On the 20th of June, 1900, she was released from the cares and toils of life, when she was almost fifty-six years of age. She was born September 3, 1844, and during her active life did much good and was well beloved. From her girlhood she was a church member.

Ten children were born to Mr. Coulthard and his wife. Robert H., who was brought into the world September 3, 1864, married Miss Minnie Hartzler, and they have three children. He is a farmer in Holt township. Henry Dickson, born December 6, 1866, also a farmer of Holt township, wedded Miss Clara Burch, and they have four children. Mary Elizabeth, born February 14, 1869, is the wife of James Pedley, a farmer of South Dakota. Joseph William, born May 1, 1871, married Miss Ella Cundy and is now engaged in farming in Holt township. Sarah Elizabeth, born January 6, 1874, is the wife of Charles Huntington, a farmer of Holt township, and they have one child. Margaret Ann, born January 8, 1876, is unmarried and lives at home. George Thomas, born May 12, 1878, wedded Miss Mabel Cundy and they have two children. He is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Holt township. Lilly Jane, born September 1, 1880, is unmarried and lives at home. James Elmer, born May 27, 1883, wedded Miss Ella Heath and is engaged in farming in Grove township. Nellie May, born December 1, 1886, is at home.

Mr. Coulthard is a firm believer in the principles of the republican platform and cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont. Since coming to Iowa he has taken an active part in the affairs of his locality, having served as road supervisor, as assessor for two years, as township clerk for eight years and as school director for a long period. He has also been a member of the county board of supervisors for six years, during which time he was a conservative and fearless official, instrumental in reducing expenditure he deemed unnecessary, and when he resigned his position he held the respect of his fellow members on



the board and the confidence of the citizens he had served so efficiently. He is a member of the local Grand Army post. Although he was reared in the Methodist faith he does not belong to any church now. Mr. Coulthard came to Taylor county when the pioneers were still struggling to convert it into a rich agricultural district. His experiences during the first years of his residence here were those of many another man who was determined to make his fortune in the new country. Through perseverance he conquered the obstacles in his path and through industry and thrift preserved the advantage gained and took another step forward.

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FRANK C. MAHAFFEY.

Frank C. Mahaffey is entitled to mention in this volume from the fact that he has been a resident of Taylor county from the time of its early settlement and has therefore witnessed the many changes which have been going on within its borders during the intervening years, at all times doing his full share in the work of improvement and transformation. He comes from a family which was founded in America during the early colonial days, representatives of the name having participated in the Revolutionary war, while his parents, Andrew and Martha (Flowers) Mahaffey, were among the pioneer settlers of the state of Ohio. His father, who was a farmer by occupation, had one brother, Hollingsworth Mahaffey, while his wife, who was a daughter of William Flowers, had two brothers and a sister, namely: William, Valentine and Katherine. Our subject has one sister and three brothers living, namely: Ara Ellen, William, Hollingsworth and Allec, while three brothers have passed away—Andrew, Clint and Lewis.

Frank C. Mahaffey, whose name introduces this sketch, was born in Adams county, Ohio, July 21, 1857, and was a pupil in the public schools of his native state until he attained the age of fourteen years. When sixteen years of age, in company with his mother, he came to Iowa, settling in Washington county, where he lived with her for two years. Then, desiring to enter business life on his own account, in 1875 he purchased eighty acres of land, which constitutes the nucleus of his present extensive holdings. With characteristic energy and zeal he set about the development and improvement of this place and in due course of time his efforts were rewarded, for the soil of Iowa is naturally rich and fertile and responds readily and abundantly to the care and labor bestowed upon it. Soon he had his fields under a high state of cultivation and that his industry and perseverance brought to him substantial returns is indicated in the fact that from time to time he was able to add to his original purchase until his farm today consists of two hundred acres of the finest and most highly improved land in the township. He engages in general farming and also raises all kinds of stock, and his close application and good management are the salient elements in the gratifying degree of prosperity which he now enjoys.

On the 22d of December, in Page county, Mr. Mahaffey was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Millhone, a daughter of Lambert and Catherine (Nicholson) Millhone. The father was one of a family of eight children, the

others being Eliza, Harvey, Edward, Ebenezer, John, Margaret and Isabelle, while the mother had three brothers, Jacob, Thomas and Benjamin Nicholson. Mrs. Mahaffey was one of a large family of children, namely: Frank and Emma, both now deceased; Newton; Thomas; Maude; Docia; and Effie, while some passed away in infancy. Harvey Millhone and Thomas Nicholson, brothers of Mr. and Mrs. Millhone respectively, were soldiers in the Civil war. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Mahaffey has been blessed with four children: Fraazes, Lambert, Hawley and Loren, all attending the public school.

Mr. Mahaffey holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church at Gravity, the teachings of which form the guiding influence of his life. In politics he gives his allegiance to the republican party, but neither seeks nor desires office for himself as a reward for party fealty. He has served as a director on the school board, the cause of education finding in him a stanch champion, while at all times he is interested in the social and moral development as well as the material progress of the community. An analyzation of his life work shows that his success is not the result of unusual characteristics but has come rather from his close application and ready utilization of opportunities such as are met with in the life of almost every individual. He has known how, when and where to put forth his best energies and the careful direction of his efforts along the lines where mature judgment has led the way has brought to him the prosperity which he now enjoys.

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#### GEORGE W. GLASSGOW.

George W. Glassgow, a well known and successful farmer and stockman of Dallas township, was born in Taylor county, Iowa, on the 24th of October, 1870, his parents being William and Julia A. (Roberts) Glassgow. The paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Glassgow, reared a family of eight children, namely: William, Charles, Samuel, David, James, Jack, Belle and Mattie. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Roberts, the maternal grandparents of our subject, were born four children, as follows: Julia, James, Daniel and Warren. In the family of William and Julia (Roberts) Glassgow there were seven children: George W., Frank, Marion, John, William, Lola and Myra.

George W. Glassgow, whose name introduces this review, has devoted his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits throughout his entire business career and in addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate, he also deals in horses, mules and cattle, both branches of his business returning to him a gratifying annual income. Energetic, enterprising and progressive, he well deserves the prosperity that has crowned his efforts.

On the 6th of February, 1891, Mr. Glassgow was united in marriage to Miss Ada Bramble, whose birth occurred in Taylor county on the 8th of October, 1872, her parents being James F. and Belle (Cobb) Bramble, natives of Ohio and Kentucky, respectively. Her paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Bramble, had a family of eight children, namely: James, Alexander, Robert, George, Charles, John, Esther and Lizzie. Mrs. Glassgow is one of a family of



five children, the others being as follows: Lizzie, Bertha, Pearl and Roy. Mr. and Mrs. Glassgow are now the parents of three children: George Roosevelt, born January 15, 1903; James Albert, whose birth occurred on the 19th of September, 1905, and Alfred, born September 3, 1909.

In his political views Mr. Glassgow is a stanch republican, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist church. Having spent their entire lives in this county, both he and his wife are well and favorably known here and have gained the warm regard and esteem of all with whom they have been associated.

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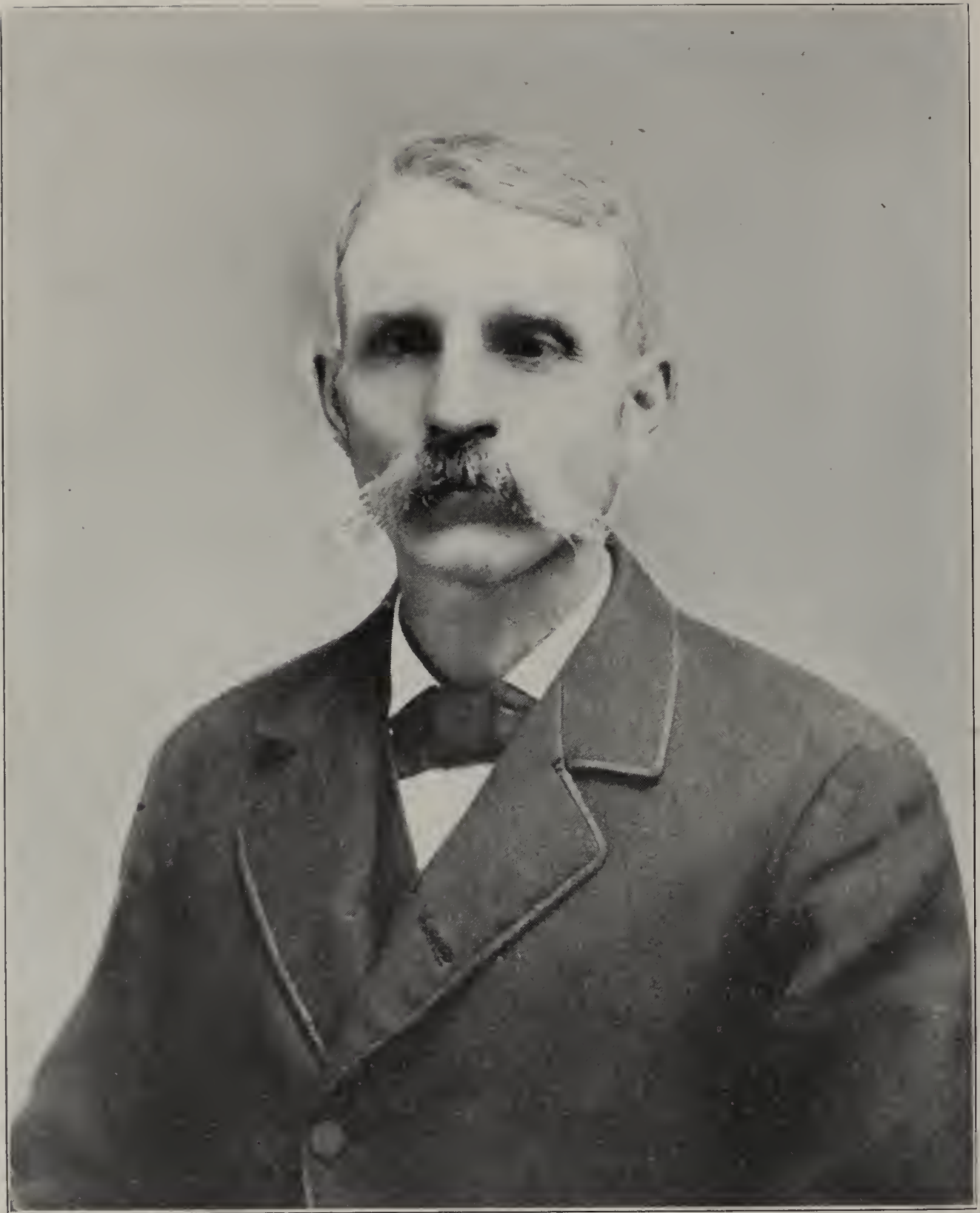
J. H. SNYDER.

J. H. Snyder is the owner of a valuable farming property of three hundred, seventy-two and a half acres situated on sections 27 and 28, Clayton township. The extent and importance of his business interests place him prominently in the front rank among the agriculturists of this part of the state, and his labors have contributed much to the progress of Taylor county in this connection. Moreover, he is entitled to representation in this volume as an honored pioneer settler of the county, for through more than a half century he has resided within its borders and has not only been a witness of its upbuilding but has cooperated in many movements for the general good. He arrived in September, 1858, coming from Scott county, where he had lived since October, 1856. He was but a young lad when he took up his abode in Iowa, his birth having occurred in Pocahontas county, West Virginia, on the 26th of January, 1851. His father, W. A. Snyder, was born in Highland county, Virginia, and was there reared, after which he removed to West Virginia. In the latter state he wedded Miss Mary W. Hannah, a native of West Virginia. While farming was his principal occupation he also engaged in teaching and likewise followed the carpenter's trade. While still residing in West Virginia three children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Snyder who in 1856, removed with their family to Iowa, settling first in Scott county, where he engaged in farming for two years. In 1858 he removed to Taylor county, purchased wild land in Gay township and opened up a new farm of one hundred and twenty acres. After he had cultivated it for a time he sold that property and later developed two other farms and also owned three different farms. He continued a resident of this county throughout his remaining days, passing away at a ripe old age, in 1906. He had long survived his wife, who died in 1883. They were worthy and respected pioneer settlers of the county, taking an active and helpful interest in the work of general improvement and development.

J. H. Snyder was a lad of seven summers when he came with his parents to Iowa, the period of his boyhood and youth being largely passed in Taylor county, where he shared with the family in all of the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life and also assisted his father in carrying on the farm. His education was acquired in the district schools, which he attended through the busy seasons, while in the early spring he assisted in the work of planting and as the year







J. H. SNYDER



MRS. J. H. SNYDER





progressed did his share in the cultivating and harvesting of the crops. He remained with his father until twenty-four years of age and was then married in this county and began farming for himself. He first purchased eighty acres of land in Gay township and transformed it into productive fields. He also cultivated another farm in addition to his own place for one year and then went upon his father's land, also farming his own place.

Mr. Snyder was first married in Gay township, this county, to Miss Minnie J. King, whom he wedded in April, 1875, and who died in 1876. He was married again in West Virginia in 1883, the lady of his choice being Miss Jennie G. Varner, a native of that state. Soon afterward he established his home on the farm where he now lives, having previously purchased two hundred acres and since locating here in 1884 he has bought more land from time to time and is now the owner of three hundred and seventy-two and a half acres, constituting a valuable place on sections 27 and 28, Clayton township. Here he has built a good barn, sheds and cribs and has also erected a comfortable and commodious residence. He had to clear off the brush and timber upon the place ere he could plow the fields and plant the crops. He now has two good bearing orchards upon the farm and it is altogether a well-improved and valuable property, lacking in none of the accessories and conveniences of a model farm of the twentieth century. He has been a very active man, always enjoying good health, and his energies have been concentrated upon his business affairs, his persistent and intelligently directed labor bringing him substantial success. Year by year he harvests good crops of corn and other cereals and he also feeds and raises hogs and cattle and to some extent handles horses. The various departments of his business are proving profitable for Mr. Snyder is neglectful of no opportunity pointing to success, nor does he fear that indefatigable effort which is so necessary to the attainment of prosperity.

By his first marriage Mr. Snyder had a daughter, Jessie, who is now the wife of Robert G. Jenkins, a resident farmer of Gay township. By his last marriage eight children have been born: John F., who is assisting in carrying on the home farm; Glen W.; Clyde V.; William W.; Leland B.; Carrie M., the wife of Daniel Cove, a farmer of Clayton township; Etta L., at home; and Mary W., who is a teacher in the schools of the county. They also lost one daughter in infancy.

While Mr. Snyder votes with the democratic party where state and national issues are involved he frequently casts an independent local ballot, considering the capability of the candidate rather than his party affiliation. His fellow-townsmen, appreciating his worth and ability, have several times called him to public office. He has served as assessor and as secretary of the school board, having been officially identified with the schools for fifteen years. He was himself a teacher in early manhood, for four terms and has ever been a stalwart champion of the cause of education. He has been a delegate to the county conventions and does all in his power to secure political integrity. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Bedford and Mr. Snyder is a Master Mason, belonging to the lodge at Plattville, Iowa. As one of the pioneer settlers of the county he can relate many interesting incidents concerning its history and its progress from early times. There were few settlers within its borders at the time of his arrival. He has killed numerous deer on the



plains here, has seen many wolves and rattlesnakes. Some of the now thriving towns and villages had not yet sprung into existence, while the more pretentious cities were little more than village cross-roads. He has ever taken an active and helpful interest in matters pertaining to the general welfare and to public progress and as a progressive citizen as well as a reliable business man he enjoys the respect and good will of all who know him.

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### HIRAM P. JAQUA.

Hiram P. Jaqua, of the law firm of Crum, Jaqua & Crum, was born in Darke county, Ohio, November 29, 1858, of the marriage of Charles and Mary (Putman) Jaqua, both of whom were natives of Ohio. The father was a physician of that state in early manhood and subsequently removed to Winchester, Indiana, where he died in 1902, at the age of eighty-four years. He had long survived his wife, who passed away in 1872 in the faith of the Presbyterian church, of which she was a devoted member.

The paternal grandfather of Hiram P. Jaqua was Judson Jaqua, a native of Connecticut, who in 1819 removed westward to Ohio, settling in Darke county, where he followed general farming. His wife bore the maiden name of Lucinda Braffit. The maternal grandfather was Ernestus Putman, who was a merchant and trader of Darke county, Ohio. He married Elizabeth Gray, and both lived to about the age of ninety years, rearing a family of several children. In the family of Charles and Mary (Putman) Jaqua were nine children, five sons and four daughters, namely: Horace G., a resident of Tipton, Indiana; Ann Elizabeth, the widow of A. J. Stakebake, of Winchester, Indiana; E. S., living at Winchester, Indiana; Ernest P., of Christian county, Missouri; Jessie, who died when about seventeen years of age; Hiram P., of this review; Charles G., deceased, who lived at Houston, Texas; Phebe, the wife of Charles Cramer, of Pomona, California; and Louie, who became the wife of Luther Smith but is now deceased.

Hiram P. Jaqua was about seven years of age when his parents removed from Ohio to Winchester, Indiana, where he attended the public schools. In 1879 he came to Taylor county, where he taught school for several terms, and was then elected clerk of the district court in 1892, serving for four years. This aroused his interest in the legal profession and resuming his studies he was admitted to the bar and has since continued actively in practice. In 1897 he formed a partnership with William E. Crum, Sr., and later William E. Crum, Jr., was admitted to the firm under the present style of Crum, Jaqua & Crum.

Mr. Jaqua was married November 29, 1888, to Miss Ida M. Young, a daughter of David and Sarah (Shaw) Young. Mrs. Jaqua was born in Washington county, this state. Her father was a native of Ohio, while her mother's birth occurred in Pennsylvania. He followed the occupation of farming as a life work and in his boyhood days became an early settler of Eastern Iowa, where he was identified with pioneer experiences. His father was Patrick Young, a native of Scotland, who on coming to America settled in Ohio, but after some years removed to this state, where he died at an advanced age. Upon the frontier David



Young was reared and took up the occupation of farming as a life work, continuing a close connection with agricultural interests for many years. He died in 1906, at the age of seventy-six years. Unto him and his wife were born the following children: Frank E.; J. Charles; Ida M.; Jeannette, the wife of G. W. Burch; James; Robert; and Bertha, the wife of H. B. Brock.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Jaqua are: Mary, Paul E., Percy J. and Dorothy. The parents are members of the Presbyterian church, in which Mr. Jaqua is serving as an elder. His political allegiance is given to the republican party.

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### W. H. PFANDER.

W. H. Pfander is a successful farmer of Marshall township, owning two hundred and seventeen acres on section 6, where he makes his home, and he likewise has an adjoining farm of one hundred nine and a half acres. He was born near Clarinda, in Page county, Iowa, April 27, 1866, a son of A. Pfander, who was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, of German parentage. The family removed from the Keystone State to Butler county, Ohio, and still later they located in Montgomery county, that state. Subsequently they removed to Preble county, Ohio, and it was on a farm there that A. Pfander was reared to manhood. His father was a wagonmaker by trade and in addition to farming he followed his trade, being assisted in the shop by his son. The latter was married in Darke county, Ohio, to Miss Elizabeth A. Colville, who was born in the Buckeye State. He then took his bride to Page county and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land near Clarinda, when that present enterprising city contained but one house. He improved his farm with a good country residence, built two barns and other outbuildings and made it a valuable property. They reared their family on the farm on which they spent many years. Mr. Pfander is now living retired in Clarinda, at the age of seventy-six years but his wife is deceased, her death occurring October 4, 1905.

W. H. Pfander was reared on the home farm in Page county and acquired his education in the schools near by. He was married August 25, 1887, in Page county to Miss Ollie E. Cree, who was born in Henry county, Illinois, but was reared and educated in Page county, to which place her parents removed during her childhood. She is a sister of D. R. Cree, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume.

Following his marriage W. H. Pfander resided on the home farm, operating a portion of the father's property, and he also farmed eighty acres near by, which he owned. After a year, he removed to his father-in-law's farm, which he operated for two years, and then bought twenty acres adjoining his eighty-acre tract, the former being improved with good buildings. Taking up his residence thereon he gave his attention to its cultivation and also operated eighty acres which he rented. In 1903 he sold his land in Page county and bought his present farm of two hundred and seventeen acres on section 6, Marshall township, Taylor county, and he likewise owns another tract of one hundred nine and a half acres in this county. He has added to and remodeled the house,



which is surrounded by a well kept lawn and a neat iron fence, and an ample supply of water is furnished for household purposes by a good system of water-works, and the water is also piped to various parts of the farm for the stock. A good orchard is also found on the place and Mr. Pfander has set out a nice grove of ash and maple trees. He carries on general farming and raises stock on an extensive scale, keeping hogs and sheep. He also has an imported Percheron stallion for breeding purposes. In all his business affairs he is methodical and systematic and his labors are bringing him good results. His wife owns a two-thirds interest in one hundred and twenty acres in Marshall township.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Pfander have been born three sons and five daughters, namely: Rilla A., who is a young lady at home; Ira D., who assists his father on the farm; Grace E.; Hattie V.; Cloyd W.; Eula Myrtle; Zenith L.; and Burl J.

Politically Mr. Pfander is identified with the republican party and is serving as a member of the school board. While still a resident of Page county he served as a school director also. He and his wife belong to the United Brethren church in Page county. Mr. Pfander is a hard-working man, who manages his business affairs in an able manner and the success which he is now enjoying is well merited.

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### JOSEPH DOUBET.

Joseph Doubet, familiarly called "Joe," a term indicative of his genial disposition and the warm friendship entertained for him throughout the community, has resided in Grant township for more than three decades and during that period has taken an active part in the work of advancement and progress which has been carried on within its borders. Born in Peoria county, Illinois, May 15, 1844, he is a son of Francis and Margaret (Ryan) Doubet, natives of France and Ireland respectively. The father, who spent the period of his boyhood and youth in the land of his nativity, came to the new world when a young man, settling in Peoria county, Illinois, where he was married. Unto that union were born two sons and two daughters, of whom our subject was the oldest. The others are: Sylvester, carrying on business in Peoria, Illinois; Mary, the wife of E. A. Paymal, of Lenox, Iowa; and Ellen, who married Charles Peltier, of Clearfield.

No event of especial importance came to vary the routine of life for Joseph Doubet during his youth, which was spent on his father's farm in Illinois. He acquired a good education in the common and high schools of that state, and when not busy with his text-books he assisted his father in the work of the home farm, early becoming familiar with the best methods of plowing, planting and harvesting. Later he entered business on his own account, wisely selecting as his life work the occupation to which he had been reared. He operated a farm in Illinois until 1875, which year witnessed his arrival in Iowa, and he settled in Taylor county. He purchased a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Grant township, upon which he located, and at once began its improvement and cultivation. With the passing of the years he became very successful in his un-

dertaking and was able to purchase additional property from time to time, so that today he owns seven hundred and forty acres of valuable land, constituting him one of the extensive landowners of the county. The place adjoins the corporate limits of the town of Clearfield, and as he has prospered he has made substantial improvements upon the farm. He erected a comfortable and attractive two-story residence, built a substantial barn and good outbuildings, and set out a grove and large orchard which yields abundant fruit in season. In connection with general farming, he also devotes considerable time to his stock interests, buying and fattening hogs and making a specialty of raising high-grade Aberdeen Angus cattle. His business interests have become extensive and are so wisely and carefully conducted that he is winning substantial success and he is ranked among the representative and prosperous agriculturists of his township.

On the 22d of October, 1878, Mr. Doubet was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Brickey, a native of Missouri, where she was educated and was engaged for some time as a teacher. This union has been blessed with seven children, namely: Nellie, the wife of Horace Baker, of Beaconsfield, Ringgold county, Iowa; Margaret, who is following the occupation of teaching; Gertrude; Mabel and Edith, who are also teachers; Florence and Dorothy, who are still under the parental roof.

In his political affiliations Mr. Doubet is independent, preferring to cast his ballot for the men and measures which in his opinion will best conserve public welfare. He has served as county supervisor one term, has filled the offices of clerk and trustee of the township and served as township supervisor for one term, while he likewise acted as assessor for sixteen years. Throughout his public career he has performed the duties that devolved upon him in his various offices with a faithfulness and efficiency which won for him the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens. In every relation of life, whether business, public or private, he has held to high and honorable principles, and the rules governing his entire career have measured up to a high standard of manhood.

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#### HENRY D. COULTHARD.

Henry D. Coulthard, a farmer residing on section 12, Holt township, was born in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, December 6, 1866, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Hutchinson) Coulthard, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. He is the second in order of birth in a family of ten children. As he was about five years of age when he came to this county he can remember some of the struggles of the early years, and at an early age he began to assist in the work on the farm. He received a fair education in the district schools but his practical preparation for life and for the vocation to which he has devoted his energies was obtained under the guidance of his father. At the age of nineteen he married and set out to make his own way in the world. He now owns one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he bought from his father under contract. On this he follows general farming, which has brought him substantial returns for his labor. His farm is well improved and the fields are cultivated



in accordance with modern methods, their appearance demonstrating the skill of their owner.

On the 6th of February, 1885, Mr. Coulthard was united in marriage to Miss Clara Burch, a native of this county and a daughter of John and Brazelda (Greggs) Burch. Four children have been born to them: Cecil Francis, George D., John H. and Harold, all of whom are at home.

The family are members of the Christian church and are closely identified with its interests. When exercising his franchise as a citizen of this republic Mr. Coulthard invariably casts his vote for the candidates of the republican party, as a man who will be guided in his political actions by principles in which he puts the greatest confidence. He has not held office nor sought for public distinction, although he has served very efficiently as a school director.

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#### GEORGE W. HOUGH.

George W. Hough, who is one of the prosperous farmers and stock feeders of Taylor county, owns three farms, which cover altogether four hundred and thirty-four acres of land. He is a man of resolute spirit, carrying forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes, and his business interests have been so capably managed as to make him one of the prominent representatives of agricultural life in southwestern Iowa. He now makes his home in Conway and has been a resident of the county since 1873, while his residence in the state dates from 1868. He was a lad of about eight years at the time of his arrival in Iowa, his birth having occurred in Mercer county, Missouri, on the 11th of January, 1860.

His father, Jeremiah Hough, was a native of Pennsylvania and when a young man removed westward to Iowa. He was married in Davis county, this state, to Miss Elizabeth Brown, also a native of Pennsylvania. Following his marriage he engaged in farming in Iowa for several years and then removed to Missouri. At the time of the Civil war he responded to the country's call for aid, enlisting in defense of the Union cause and continuing at the front for more than three years. His wife died while he was in the army. After the war he returned to Iowa, locating in Monroe county, where he lived for five years, and then removed to Taylor county, settling in Marshall township, where he purchased land and opened up a new farm. Upon that place he reared his family and as the years passed he transformed the property into a valuable place, from which he annually gathered rich harvests. At length with a handsome competence he retired and is now living in Bedford.

George W. Hough came to Taylor county when a lad of thirteen years. He was educated in the public schools of Iowa and engaged in teaching for one winter term, but the greater part of his life has been devoted to general agricultural pursuits. Following his marriage he began farming on his own account with one hundred and thirty-five acres of land and, resolutely taking up the task of improving the property, he brought the fields under a high state of cultivation. Subsequently he bought more land, securing at different times tracts of one

hundred and eighty-five, forty-five and one hundred and sixty acres. The last mentioned is all pasture land. He built and remodeled the house upon his farm and also built two good barns together with sheds and cribs sufficient for the shelter of his products. He likewise set out a grove and planted a good orchard and made the farm a valuable and productive property. There he continuously and successfully carried on general agricultural pursuits until 1905, when he rented his place and bought a new residence in Conway. He had previously purchased forty acres just south of the town and also four acres of pasture within the corporation limits. With the production of crops he also raised and fed stock and was quite successful in that department of his business.

It was on the 23d of March, 1882, in Marshall township, that Mr. Hough was united in marriage to Miss Anna Boyd, who was born and reared in this county and pursued her education in the common schools of Bedford. She is a daughter of John Boyd, one of the first settlers and early farmers of the county. He became a pioneer teacher and was also county surveyor and county superintendent of schools. His activity in varied lines has made him a valued and representative citizen of this part of the state for his labors have been far reaching and beneficial and he now lives retired in Bedford and is numbered among the valued residents there. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hough have been born two sons and a daughter: Harry, who follows farming in Oregon, is married and has one son, Donald B.; Carl, a surveyor, resides in the state of Washington; and Maud, the wife of C. M. Norton, of Conway, and they have one son, Russell Clair.

In his political views Mr. Hough is a republican, stalwart in support of the party and while on the farm served for two terms as assessor. He is now township trustee and he has frequently been a delegate to the county and state conventions. His wife is a member of the Methodist church and takes an active and helpful part in the work of the church and Sunday school. Mr. Hough belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge in Conway, and is one of the present officers. He has been a resident of Iowa from his early youth and has witnessed much of the growth and development of this part of the state. He has helped to improve and make the county one of the leading counties of this commonwealth and his own labors have been an influential factor especially in the development of Taylor county. As a business man he displays keen discernment and unfaltering enterprise and is, moreover, widely known and respected for his reliability which none have questioned.

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#### SIDNEY P. WEBB.

Sidney P. Webb, one of the prosperous merchants and public-spirited citizens of Bedford, was born near this city, February 3, 1878, and his entire life has been spent here. He is a son of Henry and Agnes (Smith) Webb, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. He acquired his education in the public schools of Bedford, passing through consecutive grades until he completed the high-school course. After leaving school he engaged in various occupations until



1902, in which year, in partnership with George McGinnis, he bought out the grocery business of M. F. Fowler, and later he purchased his partner's interest, becoming sole proprietor of the store, which he conducted until February 1, 1909. Selling his grocery, he then purchased the Fair store of J. E. Moody and now handles all kinds of general merchandise, carrying a large and complete stock.

Mr. Webb has also won prominence through his military career, having served in the Philippines as a member of Company I, Fifty-first Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He was ninety-five days on the transport *Pennsylvania* en route to the islands. Enlisting as a private, he was later promoted to corporal and after his return home was elected captain of the National Guards.

On the 25th of June, 1905, Mr. Webb was united in marriage to Miss Mary Bordner, a native of Taylor county and a daughter of Al and Harriet (Scribner) Bordner. They have one child, a daughter, Marjorie. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Webb belongs to Bedford Lodge, No. 101, K. P. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party, and his fellow citizens, recognizing his sterling worth, have elected him to the position of city treasurer, the duties of which office he is performing efficiently and faithfully. Deeply interested in all that pertains to the welfare and prosperity of the city, Mr. Webb exerts his influence toward the furtherance of all measures that tend to promote the improvement, progress and upbuilding of the community. He holds an enviable place in the regard and esteem of all with whom he has come in contact.

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#### DAVID F. FORD.

David F. Ford may well be classed among the prominent pioneer citizens of Taylor county for since he located here in 1880, he has not only seen the county developed and improved into a rich and thriving section, but he has been an active participant in what has here been accomplished, especially along agricultural lines. Throughout a long period he lived a very busy and active life but he is now living retired in a beautiful home in Blockton, enjoying in well earned rest the fruits of his former labors.

Mr. Ford was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, December 28, 1845, a son of Amos H. and Margaret (Bastras) Ford, both of whom were born in the Keystone State, the former in Lycoming county. The latter was a daughter of Judge Bastras, formerly supreme judge of Pennsylvania. Amos H. Ford was a jeweler by trade and for many years engaged in that business in Pennsylvania. Later, however, he removed to Ashland county, Ohio, and engaged in farming for a number of years. He located on an unimproved tract but in due course of time through his own labors made it a highly improved farm. He spent his remaining years in Ashland county and there passed away in 1854. His wife survived him many years and departed this life in Bowling Green, Ohio, in 1900, when she had reached an advanced age.

David F. Ford was but a young lad when he accompanied his parents on their removal from Pennsylvania to Ashland county, Ohio, and here he was



reared and pursued his education in the public schools. After the Civil war, when her children were grown, his widowed mother removed to Bowling Green, in Wood county, that state. Mr. Ford is, however, largely a self-educated man, having greatly broadened his knowledge in later years through reading, experience and investigation. He was but nineteen years of age, when in 1864, his patriotic spirit being aroused, he enlisted as a member of the One Hundred and Ninety-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, becoming a member of Company A. With General Hancock's Corps he went to Virginia and participated in a number of skirmishes. He was ill for a time in a hospital but when able to be on the field of battle rendered valiant service in defense of his country. He enlisted for but one year but served until the close of hostilities, being mustered out at Baltimore, Maryland, and he was honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio, in August, 1865.

Returning to his home in Wood county, that state, Mr. Ford then opened a photograph gallery, conducting the same one winter. Subsequently, in the spring of 1866, he went to Fulton county, Illinois, and there worked on a farm two years. Believing that Iowa offered good opportunity to the agriculturist, he then went to Dallas county, this state, and purchased a farm near Adel, and cultivated his place two years, after which he returned once more to Fulton county, Illinois, his wife, having in the meantime, inherited a farm of one hundred and thirty acres at that place. He cultivated that place for a decade and subsequently returned once more to Iowa, purchasing a farm of three hundred and nine acres in Jefferson township, Taylor county. Taking up his abode thereon, he gave his attention to the further development and improvement of the tract and as his financial resources permitted he added to his holdings until his place embraced four hundred and forty acres. In addition to carrying on general farming he also raised and fed stock on quite an extensive scale and through this means greatly enhanced his financial condition. In 1892 he decided to leave the farm, which he rented to his children, while later he divided his property among them, and Mr. Ford removed to Blockton, having in the meantime purchased thirty-seven acres within the corporation limits. After adding many improvements thereto, he traded the property for a nice home in this city and here he has continued to live to the present time. For two years after coming to this city Mr. Ford engaged in the real-estate and insurance business but has now put aside all business cares and is living retired, his invested interests bringing to him an income which supplies him with all the comforts of life.

It was while a resident of Fulton county, Illinois, that Mr. Ford was married June 9, 1868, to Miss Eliza Brown, who was there born and reared. She is a daughter of John Brown, whose parents were among the first settlers of Fulton county, he having been taken to that county as a child. His maternal grandfather, Peter Barrows, was a soldier of the Revolutionary war and was wounded at the battle of Bunker Hill. John Brown was reared in Fulton county and was there married to Miss Delila Hoffman, who was born in the Buckeye State. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Ford has been blessed with five children, two sons and three daughters, namely: Ernest and Thomas, who are farmers of Jefferson township, Taylor county; Flora, the wife of Edward Raper, who also follows farming in Jefferson township; Nellie, the wife of U. S. Severns, a resident of



Fairmont, Nebraska; and Effie, the wife of Warren Sharp, of Jefferson township. Mr. Sharp is a son of William Sharp, a well known resident of Blockton.

A democrat in principle and practice, Mr. Ford has ever taken a deep interest in public affairs and while living on the farm served for several years as justice of the peace and was also identified with the school board. He likewise filled the office of mayor several terms and has been a member of the city council a number of years. In all these public positions he has ever discharged his duties efficiently and has thereby gained and retained the full confidence of his fellow citizens. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ford are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and for a number of years Mr. Ford served as Sunday-school superintendent. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Blockton and maintains pleasant relations with his army comrades through his membership in the G. A. R. post at this place. A man of tried integrity and worth, Mr. Ford is numbered among Taylor county's most progressive and public-spirited men and Blockton takes great pride in numbering him among her most worthy and respected citizens.

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#### DAVID E. CLAYTON.

In a history of those men whose loyalty was fully proven by active service at the front throughout the Civil war, mention must be made of David E. Clayton, who is numbered among the veterans who are now residing in Taylor county. Moreover he is extensively engaged in farming here, having three hundred and ten acres of valuable land which is carefully cultivated under his direction and is devoted to the raising of cereals and stock. He is numbered among Iowa's pioneers, dating his residence here from 1858, and has therefore been a witness of the greater part of the growth and progress of Taylor county, while his co-operation in many movements for the public good has been a material factor in the work of general advancement.

Mr. Clayton was born in Washington county, Ohio, July 17, 1836, and was reared to manhood there upon a farm. At the time he attained his majority he sought a home in Iowa, coming to the west as the result of an arrangement which he made to drive a team for a man who was removing to Gentry county, Missouri. Later he came to Taylor county, Iowa, and worked by the month as a farm hand at thirteen dollars per month, never losing a day's time in two years. He was ambitious to engage in business for himself and on the expiration of that period he came to Polk township and bought four yoke of steers, which he broke and trained to the plow. During the season he then engaged in breaking the prairie until 1862, turning the furrows on one hundred acres of same each season. It was an arduous life but his undaunted energy and perseverance prompted him to this labor for he felt it to be a forward step in a business career which he hoped would ultimately lead him to prosperity. In 1862 he traded teams for land in Polk township, becoming the owner of about two hundred and forty acres of raw prairie. When he had thus made arrangements for having a farm of his own he returned to Ohio to visit his mother and while in that state, constrained by a spirit of patriotism, he offered his services to the government, enlisting on the





D. E. CLAYTON AND FAMILY





21st of August, 1862, as a member of Company G, Ninety-second Ohio Volunteer Infantry. With this command he went south into Virginia and the first fight in which he participated was on the Kanawha River, in which one man of the company was killed. He was afterward in Virginia until the winter 1862, and subsequently proceeded with the troops to Tennessee and participated in the battles of Fort Donelson and Stone River. As the war progressed he took part in other important engagements including the battles of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and the Atlanta campaign. He assisted in the capture of Jonesboro and Atlanta and later went with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea. He likewise took part in the last regular battle of the war at Bentonville and then marched northward to Richmond and on to Washington, D. C., where he participated in the grand review, the most celebrated military pageant ever seen in the western hemisphere. Later he was mustered out in the capital city, was honorably discharged there and then sent to Columbus, Ohio, where he was paid off, after which he returned home. He lost no time through illness or other causes but stacked his arms with his company every night and responded to the roll call each morning. His military record is a creditable one and of it he has every reason to be proud.

On the 23d of February, 1866, Mr. Clayton was married in Perry county, Ohio, to Miss Harriet E. Griffith, a native of that county, where her girlhood days were passed. Following their marriage they came to Taylor county, locating upon land south of Siam, which Mr. Clayton had previously purchased. With characteristic energy he began to develop the farm and continued to improve the property for two years, after which he sold out and took up his abode on another tract of land further to the north. In 1869 he sold that property and took up his abode upon the place which is now his home on section 5, Polk township. He began here with one hundred and sixty acres of land which he broke and tilled, fencing the place and making substantial improvements as the years went by. Upon the farm he built a large house and good barn, a wagon shed and cribs. He has also set out fruit trees and a fine grove and he laid out a road. Working diligently and persistently, he continued to prosper as the years passed and from time to time bought more land until he became the owner of a tract which extended along the divide for a mile, having five hundred and ten acres. He is now numbered among the extensive landowners of the county and his fields have been brought under a high state of cultivation and present a most pleasing appearance. In his pastures are found good grades of hogs, cattle and horses and his stock raising and feeding interests constitute an important source of revenue.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Clayton have been born three sons and a daughter: Ora G., who is married and owns a farm in Polk township; Mary H., the wife of Ora Scrivner, a farmer of Holt county, Missouri, living near Craig; Alva J., who is married and carries on general agricultural pursuits in Polk township; and Elzie E., who is married and follows farming in the same township.

Mr. Clayton votes with the republican party when national issues are involved but casts an independent local ballot, nor does he seek nor desire office. He and his wife are members of the Siam Methodist Episcopal church and he belongs to Sedgwick Post, No. 10, G. A. R. One of Taylor county's best known farmers and business men, he is also numbered among its earliest settlers and has done his



full share toward promoting the work of general progress and improvement here. He has opened up and developed two different farms and his labors have therefore been an important factor in the agricultural progress of the community. Moreover his life has at all times been honorable and upright and no man more fully merits the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens or enjoys in larger measure the respect and honor of those with whom he has been associated than does David E. Clayton.

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W. D. HOGG.

Iowa is preeminently an agricultural state. Its broad undulating prairies, formed of a rich, alluvial soil, offer splendid opportunity to him who is adapted for the work of general farming. Stock raising, too, goes hand in hand with the tilling of the soil and the state has not only established its reputation as the leading corn-producing center of the world but is also making an equally creditable record for its live-stock interests. Those who are working along these lines in Taylor county are on the whole winning success and the number includes W. D. Hogg, who resides on section 35, Gay township. He raises and tends stock and his excellent judgment concerning cattle, horses and hogs enables him to make good investments and profitable sales. His home place comprises two hundred acres on section 18, Gay township, and he is also cultivating the old Ballou farm of two hundred and forty acres.

Almost half a century has come and gone since W. D. Hogg arrived in this state, for in 1861 he took up his abode in Jackson county and through the intervening years has been an interested witness and cooperant factor in the growth and development which have occurred. A native of Pennsylvania, he was born August 27, 1856, and is a son of William R. Hogg, who was born in Butler county, Pennsylvania, and was reared in that state. He there married Nancy A. McMurray, also of Pennsylvanian birth, and in the year 1861 they sought a home on the western frontier, the father opening up a new farm in Jackson county, Iowa, whereon he reared his family. He was busily employed during the passing years in converting the wild land into productive fields, and in course of time he brought his place under a very high state of cultivation. He died there about 1899, having for six years survived his wife, who passed away in 1893.

W. D. Hogg was about four years of age when the family settled in Jackson county, and he made his home under the parental roof until twenty-four years of age, although in the meantime he worked to some extent as a farm hand in the neighborhood. He then went to Page county, Iowa, where he owned and cultivated eighty acres of land for eleven years. On the expiration of that period he came to Taylor county and bought the farm upon which he now resides, making it his place of residence since 1894. His has been a happy married life which had its beginning on the 1st of April, 1883, when he was joined in wedlock to Miss Eleanor Ballou, a daughter of George and Phoebe Anna (Perkins) Ballou, who came to Taylor county in the early '50s and were therefore pioneers

of this section of the state. Both were natives of New York State and the father is still a resident of Bedford, Iowa, but the mother died on the 8th of June, 1870. She was an earnest and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Hogg was born in Bedford and was reared on the farm which is yet her home. Four children have been born of this union but they lost their eldest, George, who died when eleven months old in Page county. The others are: James Richie, who aids in carrying on the home farm; Clarence B.; and Myrtle Ruth.

Mr. and Mrs. Hogg began their domestic life on the farm in Page county which he owned and which remained their place of residence until the fall of 1894, when they took up their abode upon the Ballou farm. Seven years later they removed to their own place, which Mr. Hogg cultivated for five years, but in 1906 they returned to the Ballou farm. Mr. Hogg cultivates both tracts and makes a business of raising and feeding cattle and hogs. His fields, too, are a good source of income to him for crop failures are very infrequent in Iowa and the rich land responds in generous harvests to the care and labor which he bestows upon it. He practices the rotation of crops and employs all modern methods to till his fields. A glance at his place indicates his careful supervision and his success is the evidence of an active and well spent life.

When age conferred upon him the right of franchise, Mr. Hogg proudly cast his first presidential vote for the candidate of the republican party and has since been most loyal to the organization. He has been officially identified with the schools for some years but has never been an office seeker. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Blockton and he belongs also to the Masonic lodge at that place. His recollection of pioneer events in this part of the state is keen and he relates many interesting incidents of the early days. Great changes have occurred during the period of his residence here, for the district has become thickly settled and the wild prairie grasses and flowers have been replaced by waving fields of grain and the wild game by the domestic fowls of the farmyard. Long since the evidences of frontier life have been replaced by the evidences of civilization. Throughout the intervening period Mr. Hogg has been recognized as a man of good business capacity and of strict integrity, his worth winning him the confidence and esteem of the entire community.

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#### ELISHA SMITH LEONARD.

Elisha Smith Leonard, a farmer of Holt township, was born on his father's place in this township, July 14, 1873, the son of Daniel and Jane (Heath) Leonard, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Until he was nineteen years of age he remained at home and then attended the high school at Corning. Later he spent two years at the Western Normal College in Shenandoah, Iowa, from which he was graduated, and then taught for two years in the schools of his home district. He next entered Gem City Business College in Quincy, Illinois, from which he was graduated, and subsequently taught for two years in a business col-



lege in Kansas City, Missouri. The next two years were spent in the employ of Swift & Company at different places after which he returned home and identified himself with his father and brothers, who were pioneer importers and breeders of Shropshire sheep. On the northeast quarter of section 15, given him by his father, he follows general farming and has so far met with gratifying success.

On the 26th of September, 1906, Mr. Leonard was united in marriage to Miss Myrta Powers, who was born in Taylor county and received her education at the Des Moines high school and at that of Lennox, South Dakota, graduating from the latter. She also received excellent training in music, having studied in Chicago, and afterward taught the art in Villisca and Corning, Iowa. She is a devout member of the Presbyterian church and is active in its work.

Mr. Leonard has wide fraternal relations, for he belongs to the Masonic lodge at Gravity, Iowa; was initiated into the Knights of Pythias while he was a resident of Fort Wayne, Indiana; and is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. With his wife he belongs to the order of the Eastern Star at Corning, Iowa, finding much enjoyment and relaxation from his cares in the social gatherings of that body. Industrious and a good manager, he is rapidly rising to a position of importance in the agricultural community of Holt township.

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#### EDGAR HARRIS.

Edgar Harris is the owner of one hundred and sixty-four acres of land, located in section 19, Washington township, and with its development and cultivation he has been identified for the past nine years. He was born December 28, 1858, in Nodaway county, Missouri, the oldest in a family of ten children born unto Silas D. and Sarah (Fleming) Harris. The former is a son of James and Elizabeth (Thomas) Harris, while the latter is a daughter of Peter and Temperance (Pettijohn) Fleming. The brothers and sisters of our subject are James, Fleming, Nide, John T., Walter S., May, Estella, Nannie and Mary.

Edgar Harris was reared in the place of his nativity and acquired his education in the common schools. The period of his boyhood and youth was spent in much the usual manner of farm lads and when starting out in life on his own account he engaged in farming and is now the owner of one hundred and sixty-four acres of well improved land, located in Washington township, this place having been his home for the past nine years. During that time many changes have been made in the way of improvements, for Mr. Harris carries on his business according to the most modern methods and now owns a comfortable country residence and substantial outbuildings, while everything about the farm is kept in excellent condition. He is busily engaged during the seasons of plowing, planting and harvesting, and each year he gathers good crops as the result of his well directed labor. He also raises stock to some extent and in this work he is also meeting with success.

Mr. Harris was married August 15, 1900, the lady of his choice being Mrs. Rose C. Scofield. She was born in the state of New York, October 7, 1870, a

daughter of Bernhardt and Mary Fifer, in whose family are three children, Rose, Kate and George. By her former marriage Mrs. Harris has one son, Glenn D. Scofield, and by her last marriage she has one child, Nide Harris.

Mr. Harris is a republican in his political views and affiliations but he has never been active in public life, preferring to give his full time to his private business interests. He is a member of the Christian church and is identified with the Masonic lodge at Gravity. Early in life his aim and purpose was to some day become the owner of land and to this end he worked diligently and energetically and his hopes have been realized as is evidenced by the valuable farming property of which he is today the owner.

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#### WILLIAM G. SHARP.

Although William G. Sharp has been a resident of Blockton only since the spring of 1909, he is not unknown among her citizens, for he has lived in Taylor county since 1877, and in the thirty-five years which have passed he has become well known as a reliable and highly respected citizen. Mr. Sharp was born in Shelby county, Indiana, April 25, 1849, a son of John and Catherine (Golding) Sharp, natives of Ohio and Indiana respectively. They were married in Indiana. John Sharp eventually became a resident of Clay county, Indiana, where he served as surveyor and in other official positions but later he removed to Mercer county, Illinois, the year 1860 witnessing his arrival in that state.

William G. Sharp of this review, was a lad of eleven years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Mercer county, Illinois, so that he was largely reared in that section. He acquired his education in the district schools, which, however, was somewhat limited, owing to the unsettled condition of the country at that time. It was in Mercer county that he was united in marriage to Miss Maria Nelson, who was born in that county, the marriage ceremony being performed on the 10th of November, 1872.

Following his marriage Mr. Sharp located on a farm in Mercer county, cultivating the same for five years, or until 1877, when, believing that the opportunities and advantages farther west would more quickly enhance his financial condition, he took up his abode in Taylor county, Iowa, purchasing a tract of eighty acres in Gay township. The place at that time had some improvements on it but Mr. Sharp added other buildings and further improved the place and eventually purchased more land until his possessions now aggregate three hundred and twenty acres all in one body, on which stood a comfortable farm residence, good barn and other outbuildings, and he also set out fruit and shade trees and made the place a valuable property. For many years he followed general farming and stock raising and met with excellent success in his business transactions. In the spring of 1909, he abandoned his farming interests and took up his abode in the city of Blockton, where he owns two good residence properties, one of which he occupies. The rest which he now enjoys has truly been earned, for when Mr. Sharp first located in Taylor county he had to face many difficulties and obstacles in order to establish his home here, for the country at that time



was not in its present state of development and it has been through the labors of such men as Mr. Sharp that this county has been made the rich agricultural center it now is.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Sharp has been blessed with five sons and four daughters, namely: Warren F., who owns a good farm in Jefferson township; John Clint and Arthur, who cultivate the old homestead farm and also raise stock; Claud, a druggist of Blockton; Nellie, the wife of P. P. Ledgerwood, who is an implement dealer of this city; Cora, the wife of W. A. Livingston, a farmer of Gay township; and Addie and Zelda, who are young ladies and still reside with their parents. The other son, Walter, died when a little lad of five years.

A republican in his political belief, Mr. Sharp cast his first presidential ballot for General U. S. Grant in 1872 and has voted for each presidential candidate of the party since that time. While living on the farm in Gay township he served as township trustee for nine consecutive years and in 1906 he was elected to the office of supervisor, and at the present time is serving on the county board and the bridge committee, looking after all the bridges in the southeastern part of Taylor county. He has likewise served as a delegate to county conventions, has served on the grand jury in the federal court at Creston and on the petit jury in Taylor county. Both he and his wife are devoted and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Blockton and both are active workers and teachers in the Sunday-school and Mr. Sharp at one time served as superintendent of that organization. Fraternally Mr. Sharp is identified with the Knights of Pythias lodge at Blockton. In reviewing the lives of the older residents of Taylor county we find a large number who are now living retired but we find none who are more worthy of such rest than Mr. Sharp, for a glance at his fine farming property of three hundred and twenty acres in Gay township leads us to believe that it required much hard labor to bring it to its present state of cultivation and improvement and he is now able to spend the evening of life in ease, surrounded by many comforts and by a host of warm friends who have for him none but the highest praise and commendation.

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#### JOHN F. CHRISTIANSON.

John F. Christianson, a progressive and prosperous farmer of Marshall township, Taylor county, belongs to that class of representative American citizens who claim Sweden as the land of their nativity and who in the new world have found opportunity for advancement and progress. Born in Sweden on the 1st of September, 1869, he was there reared and educated, acquiring excellent training in the Swedish language in the common and select schools of his native country. He was twenty years of age when, in 1889, he came to America, attracted by the broader business opportunities and advantages offered in the new world. Crossing the Atlantic he located first in Pennsylvania, where for about a year he was employed in the factory of the Elk Company.

The spring of 1890, however, witnessed his arrival in Taylor county, Iowa, where for about six years he was engaged as a farm hand during the summer seasons, the winter months being devoted to learning the English language in a school at Silver Lake. On the expiration of that period he returned to Sweden to visit his parents and spent about five months in his old home, after which he again came to Taylor county and here on March 18, 1895, was united in marriage, the lady of his choice being Miss Ida Amanda Blade, who was also born reared in Sweden.

After his marriage Mr. Christianson located in Conway, where he resided for several years, and then, in the spring of 1901, purchased one hundred and eighty acres of land in Marshall township, to which he removed and which forms a part of his present property. He at once set about its further development and later added another tract of thirty-five acres, so that his farm now consists of two hundred and fifteen acres located on section 5, Marshall township. He erected large and substantial barns and outbuildings, enclosed the place with good fences and extended the orchard and grove, while in the midst of a beautiful and well-kept lawn he built a comfortable and attractive residence. He carries on general farming and also engages in raising cattle, hogs and horses, and through indefatigable energy and careful management of his affairs has gained rank among the substantial agriculturists of the township. Enterprising and progressive to a large degree, these qualities have been salient elements in the success which is today his.

As the years have come and gone the union of Mr. and Mrs. Christianson was blessed with four children, the eldest of whom, Carl, passed away at the age of seven months. Three daughters survive, Edith A., Adina M. and Ruth E., and are all yet under the parental roof. Mr. Christianson was reared in the Lutheran faith, the teachings of which form the guiding influence of his life. In politics he has given his allegiance to the socialist party for the past five years, believing that the principles of that organization are best adapted to conserve the general welfare. Coming to America with no capital and without even a knowledge of the English language, he has worked his way upward in the business world until today he is ranked among the successful self-made men of his township, richly deserving the credit implied in that proud American title. Never has he had occasion to regret his determination to seek a home in the new world, for here he has found the business opportunities which he sought and through their utilization has advanced from an humble place to a position of prominence and affluence in the community.

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A. L. GORDON.

A. L. Gordon, an enterprising and progressive farmer and successful business man of Grove township, where he has resided for more than thirty years, was born in Peoria county, Illinois, on the 10th of December, 1865. He is a son of William Gordon, a native of North Carolina, who with his father, Samuel Gordon, removed to Indiana in early life and later settled in Peoria county, Illinois, in 1840.



There William Gordon was reared and for a number of years was engaged in agricultural pursuits. He became a soldier in the Civil war, enlisting from Peoria county as a member of the Forty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of hostilities. He participated in the siege of Vicksburg and the battle of Shiloh, while he also took part in many minor skirmishes and engagements. After receiving an honorable discharge he returned home and later removed to Iowa in 1876, purchasing raw land and opening up a farm in Grove township, Taylor county, where he reared his family and continued to engage in agricultural pursuits for many years. The last ten years of his life, however, were spent in Lenox, where he passed away in December, 1896, at the age of seventy-three years. His wife, a native of Kentucky, was reared and married in Indiana and survived her husband until June, 1908, both being laid to rest in Lenox cemetery.

A. L. Gordon was a lad of eleven years when he came with his parents to Grove township, Taylor county, and was here reared to manhood, spending the period of his boyhood and youth upon his father's farm. He acquired his education in the district schools near his home and took a commercial course at Burlington, Iowa, and when not occupied with his text-books was busily engaged in the work of the home farm, assisting his father in the development and improvement of a new place. He early became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and learned many practical lessons concerning the value of industry, diligence and perseverance. He remained at home until twenty-four years of age, when, on the 2d of October, 1889, he was united in marriage to Miss Libbie Carter, a native of Henderson county, Illinois, and a daughter of James Carter, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work.

After his marriage Mr. Gordon removed to a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which he had previously purchased and which formed the nucleus of his present large farm. When it came into his possession it was but partially developed and contained no buildings whatever. Before his marriage, however, he erected a small house and barn, and here the young couple began their domestic life. Mrs. Gordon had received from her father a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and with the passing of the years Mr. Gordon prospered in his business so that he was able to add from time to time to his original purchase until his holdings now consist of four hundred and twenty acres, all under an excellent state of cultivation. He has remodeled his home, which is now an up-to-date and modern residence, and has two large and substantial barns and commodious outbuildings, while he has set out an orchard and grove. The house is surrounded by a neat and well-kept lawn, ornamented by beautiful trees and shrubbery, and his place is today one of the neatest and most beautiful properties in the township. In connection with tilling the soil he has given considerable attention to stock raising and feeding, fattening a large number of cattle and hogs annually. His business interests, under his wise and careful management, are proving most profitable, and he is ranked among the substantial and representative agriculturists of Taylor county.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon have two sons, namely: Earl L., who is assisting his father in the operation of the home farm; and Vernon, attending school near his home. The parents are members of Blue Grove Christian church, in which



Mr. Gordon is serving as an elder, while his wife is actively and helpfully interested in the church and Sunday-school work. Politically he gives his allegiance to the republican party on all national issues, but where local affairs are concerned he is independent, reserving the right to vote for the men and measures which in his estimation are best adapted to conserve the public welfare. For about twelve years he was secretary of the school board and has been identified with the schools more or less for many years, the cause of education finding in him a stanch champion.

Having resided in Taylor county since eleven years of age, Mr. Gordon has therefore been a witness of the work of progress and improvement which has been going on within its borders during the last quarter of a century, and he has seen the raw prairie land converted into productive fields that are known throughout the country for the richness of their soil and the excellence of their harvests. In the work of growth and development he has been closely associated and is today recognized as one of the representative and highly esteemed citizens of the community, his excellent business ability, integrity of purpose and honorable manhood having gained him the respect and admiration of all with whom he has come in contact.

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#### WILLIAM H. LANDEN.

William H. Landen, a property owner of New Market, where he has resided since 1904, was engaged in the harness business until September 1, 1909, and met with most creditable success in that enterprise. Born in Parke county, Indiana, on the 13th of April, 1851, he is a son of Orey and Maria (Barnes) Landen, the former one of a family of eight children, the others being Sarah, Rebecca, Amy, Jane, John, Adeline, and Maria Landen, while the latter had the following brothers and sisters, William, Granville, Henry, Joseph, Elizabeth and Sarah Barnes. The ancestors, as far back as can be traced, have resided in America, and it is not known where the family originated or when founded in this country.

Reared under the parental roof, William H. Landen is indebted to the public schools for the educational advantages which he enjoyed in his boyhood and youth. He remained a pupil until twenty-one years of age, and in the meantime, from his eighteenth to his twenty-first year, he worked upon a farm when not engaged with his text-books, and thus received good practical training along the line of general agriculture. After leaving school he continued to engage in farming in the employ of others until he was twenty-eight years old and then, in 1877, he went to Rooks county, Kansas, where he took up a homestead claim. He devoted his energies to the cultivation and improvement of that property until 1890, when he sold the land and came to Taylor county, where he purchased eighty acres of land. This property was in a raw condition when it came into his possession, but with characteristic energy and perseverance he set about its improvement, and before long he had his fields under a high state of cultivation, from which he reaped golden harvests in the autumn. He continued to operate the place until 1904, in which year he removed to New Market, although he did not



sell the farm until two years later. His life had been one of continuous activity and his intelligently directed efforts had brought him a gratifying degree of prosperity. He lived retired for two years, but not being content to remain idle, he became identified with the harness business in the spring of 1909 and devoted his time and attention to the conduct of an enterprise for some months.

On the 6th of September, 1882, in Madison township, Rooks county, Kansas, Mr. Landen was united in marriage to Mrs. Julia Hill, and thereby laid the foundation for a happy home life. They are members of the Christian church, of which Mr. Landen is a trustee and president of the church board. Fraternally he holds membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is right supporter of the vice grand. He was a liberal contributor to the building of the I. O. O. F. hall, which is an imposing building and ranks among the finest structures in the city. He is a democrat in politics and although he does everything in his power to further the influence of the party in the community, yet he has never sought nor desired office for himself, preferring to confine his energies to his private business affairs. He is not remiss, however, in his duties of citizenship, his interests being thoroughly identified with those of Taylor county, and at all times he is ready to lend his aid and cooperation to any movement calculated to benefit his section of the country or promote its development.

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#### S. B. HICKENLOOPER.

More than sixty years have passed since S. B. Hickenlooper came to Iowa. This state was then a wild district, its land unclaimed, its resources undeveloped. In the years which have since passed he has not only witnessed a most wonderful transformation but has largely aided in the labors which have transferred the wild tract into a splendid commonwealth. Now in his declining years he is living retired, enjoying the well-earned rest which is the merited reward of a long and honorable business career.

Born in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, east of Pittsburg, on the 2d of October, 1835, he is a son of Thomas Hickenlooper, also a native of Pennsylvania, his birth there occurring in May, 1793. In that state the father was reared to manhood and he there married Miss Julia Hawkins, who was also born and reared in the Keystone state. He was a farmer by occupation and engaged in the salt business. In 1844 he removed westward, settling in Monroe county, Iowa, where he entered a large tract of land, upon which he resided and which he continued to operate up to the time of his death. He was numbered among the early settlers in that portion of the state and became a well-known and prominent man in the community in which he lived. His wife survived him for some years, passing away in Taylor county while on a visit.

S. B. Hickenlooper is one of a family of eight sons and two daughters born unto Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hickenlooper. He was a lad of nine years when he came west, living in Illinois for two years, and was thirteen years old when he came to Iowa to join his parents in Monroe county, where he grew to manhood. The educational advantages which he enjoyed in his youth were largely due to







MRS. S. B. HICKENLOOPER



S. B. HICKENLOOPER





his own efforts, for his opportunity to attend school was very limited. He remained at home until nineteen years of age, when he started out to earn his own livelihood. He worked in a sawmill in Monroe county for some time, and later was engaged in a flour, grist and sawmill in Taylor county, arriving here in 1857. He was desirous that his efforts should more directly benefit himself, and so he carefully saved his earnings until he had accumulated sufficient means to purchase a grist and portable sawmill, in the operation of which he continued for several years. He had previously entered land in Monroe county and later entered another tract in the western part of Taylor county, which he subsequently traded for property in Gay township, which he cultivated and improved and which is still in his possession. He resided upon this farm for some time, engaged in general agricultural pursuits, and as the years passed he became very successful in this enterprise. From time to time he purchased more land until he now owns four hundred and forty acres, divided into two well-improved and valuable farms. Later he removed to Blockton and was associated with Thomas King in the building of the old town of Colfax, near that city. During his residence there he conducted a general store but later withdrew from commercial activities and returned to the farm, where he continued to reside for several years. He engaged in general farming and also devoted much time to the raising and feeding of stock, and in both branches of his business he met with a gratifying measure of success, his unremitting industry and capable management being salient elements in his prosperity. He became well known as a business man and stock feeder all over the county and was ranked among the well-to-do and enterprising farmers of Gay township. Something of the prosperity which came to him as the result of his many years of earnest labor is indicated in the fact that eventually he was able to retire altogether from active business, his competence being such as to make it possible for him to enjoy in well-earned rest all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. He removed to Blockton, and purchased the place which is now his place of residence. He remodeled the house, which is now one of the comfortable and attractive homes of the town, and also set out a small orchard on the place.

On the 24th of November, 1859, in Gay township, Mr. Hickenlooper was united in marriage to Miss Ann Eliza King, a daughter of John King, one of the early settlers of that township. She was born in Lee county, Iowa, but reared in Taylor county, and by her marriage became the mother of nine children, one of whom has passed away. Those who survive are: Mary I., the wife of Cleveland King, of Oklahoma; Flora, the wife of William Ewart, a resident farmer of Gay township; Thomas Sherman, a resident of Blockton; Nathan O., the postmaster of Blockton for a number of years; George C., a business man of Blockton; Ernest T., engaged in business in Des Moines, Iowa; Maud, who married Professor G. A. Chaney, of the State University of Wisconsin; and Carl B., pursuing a medical course at the St. Joe Medical College. A daughter, Rosalie D., died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Hickenlooper are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is active in the church and Sunday-school work, having charge of a Bible class and serving as superintendent of the Sunday-school at Platteville in Gay township. His life has at all times been in harmony with his pro-



fessions and his influence for good has been a power in the moral upbuilding and development of the communities in which he has lived. Fraternally he is connected with the Odd Fellows lodge of Blockton and for several years served as secretary of the lodge in this city. In politics he is a republican. He cast his first ballot for John C. Fremont in 1856, and since that time has supported every presidential nominee for that party. He has filled several public offices, serving as assessor, justice of the peace and also as township trustee in Gay township for some years. In this county, where he has resided for more than a half century, he has become widely known as an honorable and upright gentleman, and that his circle of friends is almost coextensive with the large circle of acquaintances which he has gained throughout the county is indicative of the fact that his salient characteristics are such as have won for him the honor, respect and good will of all with whom he has been associated.

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#### WILLIAM L. DORR.

William L. Dorr, living on section 24, Ross township, owns and operates a farm of two hundred acres which is well improved. The fields are carefully cultivated and as the soil is rich and productive substantial harvests are annually gathered. Mr. Dorr is also well known as a breeder of and dealer in Duroc Jersey hogs and Aberdeen Angus cattle. Moreover, he is numbered among the old settlers of the county, dating his residence here from 1874, and is a native son of Iowa, his birth having occurred in Cedar county, June 19, 1869. He comes of Teutonic ancestry. His father, Leonard Dorr, was a native of Germany and when a young man sailed for the new world, settling first in Warren county, Illinois. He was afterward married there to Amelia Ann Osborn, a native of Warren county, and they began their domestic life upon a farm in that locality. Two children were born unto them ere their removal to Iowa. On coming to this state they took up their abode in Cedar county, where they lived for a few years, and where three more children were added to the family, namely: W. L., J. W. and C. A. About 1876 they removed to Taylor county and Mr. Dorr purchased land in Ross township and there developed a farm upon which he reared his family and made his home for a number of years. His wife died upon this farm in 1896 and Mr. Dorr has since spent his time among his children, being now with a son in Oklahoma.

William L. Dorr was reared on the home farm in this county, his youthful days being spent in the usual manner of farm lads who divided their time between the work of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the duties of the fields. He acquired his education in the district schools and also in the public schools of Bedford, and when he started out in life on his own account he chose the occupation to which he had been reared. He rented land and thus engaged in farming for several years, after which he removed to Kansas, where he carried on farming for two years. Subsequently he went to Oklahoma and later he returned to Taylor county. He has always carried on general farming and is now the owner of two hundred acres of rich and productive land on sec-

tion 24, Ross township. Mr. Dorr purchased eighty acres of his present place soon after his marriage and as his financial resources have increased has extended the boundaries of the farm. He has also rebuilt and remodeled the house, has put up two new barns and has added many other modern equipments. He has fenced and cross-fenced the farm, has planted a good apple and peach orchard and in connection with the cultivation of cereals best adapted to the soil and climate he is extensively and successfully engaged in raising Duroc Jersey hogs. He also has a herd of fifteen head of Aberdeen Angus cattle which are high-grade stock.

In Ross township in January, 1898, Mr. Dorr was united in marriage to Miss Laura Jones, who was born in Bedford and is a daughter of Taylor Jones. They now have two children: Carrie and Carl. Politically Mr. Dorr is a stanch democrat where national issues are involved but locally he casts an independent ballot. He was elected township clerk and served for three years, after which he was elected township trustee and filled that position for two years. He was next chosen assessor and has remained in public office altogether for ten years. He holds membership in the Christian church, while his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and both are consistent Christian people, whose well-spent lives have won for them the high esteem, confidence and regard of all who know them. Mr. Dorr is widely recognized as a man of tried integrity and worth.

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#### S. B. OVERMIRE.

S. B. Overmire, who is well known in the business circles of Lenox through his connection with real-estate and insurance interests, has also figured prominently in public affairs since his residence in this city and is recognized as one of the representative and influential citizens of the community. He dates his residence in Iowa from 1851, his parents being numbered among the very first settlers of Tama county.

A native of Ohio, Mr. Overmire was born in Sandusky county on the 25th of November, 1844, and came to Iowa with his parents when about seven years of age. He was reared to manhood in Tama county, remaining under the parental roof until twenty years of age when, actuated by a spirit of patriotism, he enlisted on the 15th of February, 1864, as a member of Company F, Twenty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and with his regiment went south to join General Banks in the Red River expedition. During this expedition he took part in a fight while on a transport, and almost miraculously escaped death, being in the thickest of the fight, with bullets and shells whistling all about him. Later his regiment joined General Sheridan in the Shenandoah campaign and during that time he saw much active service. He participated in the battles of Mansfield, Pleasant Hill and Old Oaks, was in the engagement at Opequon Creek and continued on through to Winchester. Subsequently the regiment stormed the heights of Fishers Hill and then fell back to Cedar Creek, where one of the greatest battles of the war was fought, and where they remained one month, from September 19 until October 19. For one month Sheridan's losses



were nineteen thousand men, either killed, wounded or lost. Mr. Overmire then went to Baltimore, where he took ship for Savannah, Georgia, the regiment being sent to relieve Sherman. He marched back to Morehead City, and on to Newberne, North Carolina, and from there to Sherman's base of supplies. He was never wounded but became ill with measles and was in a hospital for a short time. Otherwise he lost no time whatever from his regiment and throughout his entire term of enlistment served with a courage and bravery that won for him a most creditable military record. He was mustered out at Savannah, Georgia, and honorably discharged on the 12th of August, 1865.

When the country no longer needed his assistance Mr. Overmire returned home and at once became connected with agricultural pursuits. For six years he was thus identified as a renter, at the same time operating a threshing machine, and then he purchased a farm of eighty acres located in Tama county. This he later sold and then came to Taylor county, locating in Platte township. He invested in one hundred and sixty acres of land and immediately directed his efforts toward its cultivation and improvement. He broke the sod, converted the land into productive fields and built a dwelling and substantial barns and out-buildings, so that the farm, under his careful management, became a well-improved property. He continued to make this his home for several years and then withdrew from agricultural pursuits and removed to Lenox. Here he took up the carpenter's trade, which he had learned in early life, and for a number of years was engaged in erecting barns and houses throughout the community. Since about 1901, however, he has been identified with the real-estate and insurance business and has already gained an extensive patronage, which is constantly growing. He deals largely in farm and town property, handling considerable real estate, and he also writes a large amount of insurance annually. He has since sold his old homestead and purchased another well improved farm of eighty acres. He owns his home in Lenox and has also wisely invested his money in other real estate, being the possessor of valuable business property in this city. He is a man of good judgment, keen discrimination and excellent business ability, and through the exercise of these qualities has won for himself a most creditable place among the leading business men of Lenox.

It was on the 12th of March, 1868, in Tama county, Iowa, that Mr. Overmire was united in marriage to Miss Martha C. Crawford, a native of Pennsylvania. She was reared, however, in Tama county, where she acquired a very good education. Mr. and Mrs. Overmire have become the parents of four children, one son and three daughters, namely: M. M. Overmire, a farmer of Platte township, who is married and has four children, three daughters and one son; Mary E., the wife of C. M. Frame, a farmer of Platte township, who also is a stock-breeder and dealer, making a specialty of pure blooded shorthorn cattle and Duroc hogs; Edna D., who married Lewis Hewitt, also carrying on agricultural pursuits in Platte township; and Nellie M., the wife of Louis Crittenden, of Rivera, California.

Mr. Overmire is widely recognized as an enterprising and successful business man, but he is better known, perhaps, for the active and helpful interest he has taken in community affairs. In politics he gives his allegiance to the democracy when national questions are involved, but in local matters he is independent,



reserving the right to vote for the men and measures which in his estimation will best conserve the general good. He served as assessor for a number of years and has also filled the office of road supervisor, while for many years he has been a member of the school board. Higher official honors came to him in his selection, by the people, as mayor of Lenox. He filled the office of chief executive for two years, and during that time gave to the city a businesslike, progressive and beneficial administration, in which he inaugurated various needed reforms and improvements, nor did he fail to check those movements which he deemed inimical to the best interests of the city. He has served as a delegate to various county and state conventions and is recognized as one of the leading and influential factors in the local ranks of the democratic party.

Fraternally Mr. Overmire is connected with the Odd Fellows, holding membership in Lenox lodge, while he maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades through his membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. He held the office of commander in the latter body for a time and is now serving as adjutant. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church and are people of excellent standing in the community. In his business affairs Mr. Overmire has ever displayed sound judgment and keen discrimination and at the same time has ever been straightforward and honorable, basing his business principles and actions upon the rules which govern strict and unswerving integrity. In every relation of life, whether at home, in business or before the public, he has ever been guided by principles of upright and honorable manhood and has gained the unqualified respect and regard of his fellowmen.

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#### H. L. CARR.

H. L. Carr, who is now serving his first term as mayor of Blockton, is showing himself well qualified to fill the position to the satisfaction of the public and with credit to himself. Spending his life here from his childhood days, he is well known to the people of this section, who have chosen him for the responsible position which he is now filling. Born in Worth county, Missouri, March 9, 1862, he was but an infant when brought to Taylor county by his parents, Thomas and Mary (Williams) Carr, the former a native of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where he was reared. He came as a young man to Taylor county, Iowa, and it was here that his marriage to Miss Williams was consummated. Following his marriage Mr. Carr removed to Worth county, Missouri, where he remained for a time but eventually returned to Taylor county, where he enlisted for service in the Civil war, becoming a member of the Ninth Iowa Cavalry under Captain Flick. Going south with his company he was there taken sick and died in a hospital at Benton Barracks about 1864. His widow still survives and now makes her home in Redding, Ringgold county, Iowa.

H. L. Carr of this review was but a child when he was taken to Clinton county, this state, and was there reared on a farm, while his education was acquired in the common schools. He was a young man of twenty years, when, in 1882, he returned to Taylor county and sought employment at farm labor. He



was married in October of the following year, 1883, to Miss Sarah Allen, who was born in Ohio but they were married in Buchanan county, Iowa.

Following their marriage the young couple began their domestic life upon a farm situated near Blockton and Mr. Carr gave his attention to general farming for about four years, when, believing that other pursuits would prove more congenial, as well as profitable to him, he removed to Blockton and for several years was engaged in various lines of business. Always of a public-spirited nature, he has many times served in local official positions and on the republican ticket was elected mayor of Blockton, now serving his first term in that responsible position. Although he has served but a short time he has already demonstrated that he is the right man in the right place for he at once undertook the work of having the streets cleaned, walks laid and in other ways has made needed improvements which have added not only to the comfort and convenience of Blockton's residents but to the attractive appearance of the city as well. On all public questions where the best interests of the community are involved he is ever to be found on the right side and stands firm in support of his honest convictions.

Prominent in fraternal circles, Mr. Carr is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge, in which he has served through all the chairs and is now a past chancellor. He has also served as a delegate to the grand lodge seven years and has been instrumental in framing the by-laws with the Pythian committee. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Carr has been blessed with three children but their first-born, Vanna V., died when three years of age, the surviving members being Cullen B. and Beulah May. The family are prominent in social circles in Blockton and as an official Mr. Carr stands high in the community, having the confidence and esteem of all with whom he is brought in contact, while as charter members of the Christian church both Mr. and Mrs. Carr take an active part in the various organizations of that denomination.

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#### HOWARD HENSLEY.

Earnest, persistent and intelligently directed labor constitutes the basis of all legitimate and honorable success. More than a century ago Thomas Jefferson said: "The hope of the nation lies in the tillers of the soil," while George Washington said: "Agriculture is the most useful as well as the most honorable occupation of man." To that work Howard Hensley devoted his energies until he had acquired capital sufficient to enable him to put aside further cares and spent his remaining days in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. He is, therefore, now living retired in Bedford but for many years was a leading representative of the farming interests of Taylor county.

Mr. Hensley was born in Bloomington, Indiana, May 9, 1844, and is a son of Nathan and Mary (Moshur) Hensley. The father was born in Kentucky and was a son of Samuel and Jane Hensley, the former of Kentucky and the latter of Tennessee. He became one of the early settlers of Kentucky, afterward removing to Bloomington, Indiana, and for many years followed farming, spending his last days in Monroe county, Indiana. The maternal grandfather of How-

ard Hensley removed from Tennessee to Indiana at an early period in the development of the latter state and he, too, made farming his life work. He was of German lineage and both he and his wife died when well advanced in years, after rearing a large family. The children of Samuel and Jane Hensley were twelve in number: James, Sally, Richard, Joseph, Martha, Mary, Jane, Nancy, Rachel, Nathan, John and Catharine.

Of this family Nathan Hensley was reared to farm life and always carried on general agricultural pursuits. He removed from Kentucky to Indiana, later to Illinois and eventually to Washington territory, but in the fall of 1874 returned to the Mississippi Valley and settled in Iowa. He lived in Bedford until 1879 when he took up his abode in Hopkins, Missouri, his death there occurring in 1880 when he was sixty-five years of age. His wife survived him until 1900 and was eighty-five years of age at the time of her demise. Both were members of the Baptist church and their many good qualities made them people of the highest respectability. Their family numbered four sons and seven daughters: Byers, Henry and Mrs. Elizabeth Ferris, all now deceased; Eliza, the deceased wife of David Alexander; Martha, the wife of Uriah Mullikin, of Franklin, Indiana; Howard; Mary, the widow of Theodore Risser, of Maryville, Missouri; Celia, the wife of Isaac Helton, of Chicago; Richard, who died when four years of age; Mrs. Winnie Mustine, deceased; and Sarah, who became the wife of Charles Bagby and after his death married Charles Ramsay, now deceased. She now resides in Clarinda, Iowa.

In taking up the personal history of Howard Hensley we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known in Bedford and Taylor county. His youthful days were spent in the usual manner of farm lads, for he was upon his father's farm near Bloomington, Indiana, and attended the district schools there. At the age of seventeen years he enlisted in response to the country's call for aid to crush out the rebellion in the south, becoming a member of Company F, Twenty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He joined the army on the 5th of March, 1862, and was mustered out on the 5th of March, 1865. At the battle of Antietam on the 17th of September, 1862, he was wounded and lay for three days and three nights on the battlefield. So many were the wounded in that engagement that the army surgeons and their assistants could not attend to him before that time. He was then taken from the battlefield to the hospital at Germantown, Philadelphia. He had participated in the battles of Winchester, Cedar Mountain, the second battle of Bull Run, Antietam and a number of small engagements in Virginia and in the vicinity of Washington. There were eighty men in his company whose height ranged from six to seven feet, Captain David Van Buskirk being seven feet tall. Captain Copp who was killed at Antietam, was the first commander of Company F, while General Mansfield commanded the corps and was also killed there.

Mr. Hensley never faltered in the performance of any military duty whether it called him to the thickest of the fight or stationed him on the lonely picket line. When the country no longer needed his aid he returned to his home in Indiana and soon afterward removed to McDonough county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming until 1868. He then went to Iroquois county, Illinois, where he resided until 1873 and in that year arrived in Taylor county, Iowa, settling in Ross



township. At one time he was the owner of an extensive and valuable farm of five hundred and twenty-five acres and he still has two hundred and ten acres of rich and productive land. He improved his property according to modern methods, continued the cultivation of his fields for thirty years and reared his family upon his farm. He then removed to Bedford, where he purchased a beautiful home that he now occupies and amid pleasant surroundings he is enjoying the comforts and some of the luxuries that go to make life worth living. In addition to the tilling of the soil he was formerly engaged extensively in the raising of stock, making a specialty of horses.

On the 27th of December, 1868, Mr. Hensley was married to Miss Susanna Wingard, a daughter of Jacob and Susanna (Zook) Wingard. She was born at Camden, Carroll county, Indiana, July 26, 1846, while her parents were natives of Pennsylvania. They became early settlers of Indiana, however, and there they reared their family of seventeen children, of whom ten are now living: Abraham; Catherine, the wife of Morgan A. Dewey; Susanna, the wife of Howard Hensley; Jacob Z.; Alexander; James; Elizabeth, the wife of Felda Runk; Rosanna, the wife of Samuel Van Horn; Mellie, the wife of Christ Van Nett; and Emily, the wife of William Yager. The paternal grandparents of Mrs. Hensley were John and Catherine Wingard. The former was a native of Pennsylvania and of German lineage. He died at an old age, while his wife passed away when well advanced in years. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Hensley was a native of Pennsylvania and a farmer by occupation.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Hensley was blessed with twelve children. Susanna L., the eldest, is the wife of J. F. Miller, of Los Angeles, California, and they have two children, Galon R. and Flossie. Tilman H., a farmer of Taylor county, married Ella E. Spencer and they have seven children: Hazel I., Burrell H., Lela R., Ora R., Wayne, Ralph and Opal. Leah R. is the wife of T. F. Allen, of Ross township and has two children, Cecil E. and Russell. Jacob N., a farmer living three miles southeast of Bedford, married Miss Bertha J. Jones and they have four children, Ethel, Dewey, Clay and Nell. Mary C. is the wife of Lewis McClernon, of Page county, Iowa, and they have three children, Howard and Gale and an infant. Phebe E. is the wife of C. A. Ferrell, of Missoula, Montana. Blanche E. is the wife of A. E. Beauchamp, of Butte, Montana, and they have one child, Eula. Winnie M. is the wife of E. E. Tondo, residing near Bedford, and they have one son, Kenneth H. James A., who married Chloe Griffith, resides on the home farm. Lillian F. is the wife of H. A. Stephens, living at Missoula, Montana. Ruth T. and Ruby C. were twins and are deceased.

In 1909 Mr. and Mrs. Hensley spent two months in the west, visiting Montana, Seattle, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City and Denver. They are members of the Christian church and are people of the highest respectability, enjoying the confidence, good will and esteem of all who know them. Mr. Hensley belongs to Sedgewick Post, No. 10, G. A. R., and at the polls gives earnest endorsement to the republican party and its principles. He has served as school director and for a number of years was township trustee. The duties of these positions he discharged with promptness and fidelity and at all times has been an advocate of public progress and improvement, being as loyal to his country in days of

peace as when he followed the old flag upon the battlefields of the south. His business record, too, is equally commendable, his success being honorably won in legitimate fields of labor.

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### CHARLES FRANKLIN DRESHER.

Charles Franklin Dresher, living retired in Bedford after a long, close and successful connection with farming interests in Polk township, Taylor county, where he still owns a large tract of valuable land, was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, July 26, 1833. He is a son of Stephen and Louisa (Sneaybarger) Dresher, the father also a native of Berks county, and of German descent. The mother was born in Switzerland. Samuel Dresher, the grandfather of Charles F. Dresher, was a native of Pennsylvania and followed farming as his life work. He was survived by his wife for about twenty years, her death occurring when she had reached quite old age. Their family consisted of two sons and five daughters. The mother of our subject accompanied her father, mother and brother on their emigration from Switzerland to the United States, being but two years of age at the time. Stephen Dresher was also a farmer and a soldier of the Civil war. He died in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, when seventy-seven years of age, after which his wife removed to Page county, Iowa, where she passed away at the age of seventy-five years. Both were consistent members of the German Lutheran church. In their family were twelve children, namely: Charles Franklin; James Jefferson; Mary Matilda, the wife of John Stroup of Max, Nebraska; Hannah, of Red Bluff, California; William, who was killed in the battle of Gettysburg during the Civil war; Samuel and John, both deceased; Lydia, the deceased wife of James Border; Catharine Lucretia, deceased; Stephen Albert, of Denver; George Howard, of Omaha; and Christian, who has also passed away.

Charles F. Dresher, whose name introduces this sketch, was reared on his father's farm in Berks county, Pennsylvania, and there acquired his education. Seven years were spent in the German schools of his district, and at the age of fourteen he began his study of the English tongue, in this way becoming familiar with both languages, being able to translate from one to the other with ease. After completing his education he remained on the home farm until twenty-two years of age, when he removed to Indiana, accepting a position as clerk at Worthington. On the expiration of one year, however, he went to Owen county, that state, and in 1858 came to Taylor county, Iowa, settling on a farm of eighty acres in Polk township. He directed his efforts to the cultivation of this farm, the soil responding readily to the care bestowed upon it and yielding gratifying returns, so that he was able, year by year, to add to his original purchase until his holdings amounted to two hundred and seventy acres. Close application, unfaltering energy and unwearying perseverance were factors in his success—a success which eventually permitted him to retire from active labor, and in 1900 he removed to Bedford. Here he purchased a nice home and is now enjoying in honorable retirement the fruits of his former labor.



On the 24th of June, 1858, Mr. Dresher was united in marriage to Miss Nancy J. Morris, a daughter of Jesse and Polly (Morris) Morris, and unto them were born five children: Mary Louisa, the wife of Frank Hamilton residing in Polk township; Charles Oscar, who wedded Jennie Aiten by whom he has two sons, William and Aiten; Jesse, who married Sarah Shearbeck and has two children, Helen and Charles; Anna, who is residing at home; and Arminta, the wife of W. E. Myers, of Conway, Iowa, a mail carrier, by whom she has one daughter, Josephine Jane. Mrs. Dresher was born in Indiana, while her parents were both natives of Kentucky. She was the fourth in order of birth in a family of twelve children, the others being: James W.; Morris; James G.; William; Amanda, the wife of Solomon Neumeyer; Martha Ann, deceased; Mary Elizabeth, the wife of Kellar Thompson of Hopkins, Missouri; Hamilton; Benjamin; Marion; and Monroe.

Mr. and Mrs. Dresher attend the Methodist church, of which they have been members for over fifty years. Mr. Dresher votes with the republican party, and that his fellow-citizens recognize and appreciate his sterling worth and public-spirited citizenship is indicated in the fact that they have, during his residence in this county, called him to offices of honor and trust, the various positions held by him being those of constable, justice of the peace, assessor, supervisor, township clerk, school director, and in fact all of the township offices except that of township trustee, while his services as justice of the peace extended over many years. He has made an efficient and faithful officer, discharging the duties of the various positions which he has held with promptness and fairness, while his personal integrity and devotion to the public good have at all times remained unquestioned. In private life he has gained many warm friends who hold him in the utmost confidence and esteem.

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#### S. J. WENTZEL.

S. J. Wentzel, who for almost two decades has been a prominent and successful representative of agricultural interests in Taylor county, was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, on the 2d of November, 1843. He is a son of Daniel and Catharine (Campbell) Wentzel, natives of Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, where they were reared and married. His paternal great-grandfather fought for American independence during the Revolutionary war, while his grandfather, Daniel Wentzel, was a soldier of the war of 1812. His father, who was a stone-cutter by trade, followed that occupation in Pennsylvania for about thirty-six years and then settled upon a farm in Perry county, that state, where his remaining days were spent. His family consisted of five sons and seven daughters, all of whom reached mature years and reared families of their own, and were all church members. Of this number four sons and four daughters still survive.

In the common schools of the Keystone State S. J. Wentzel acquired his education and on his father's farm he was reared to manhood, assisting his father in the work of the fields until twenty years of age. Then imbued with a spirit



MR. AND MRS. S. J. WENTZEL





of patriotism, on the 2d of September, 1864, he enlisted for three years' service in the Civil war, becoming a member of Company F, Two Hundred and Eighth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. The regiment joined the Army of the Potomac and his first duty was on the picket line. Later, however, he participated in many important engagements, including the battles of Appomattox, Peach Orchard, Bermuda Hundred, Fort Steadman, Petersburg, Five Forks or Hatchers Run. He was a member of a brigade detailed to tear up the railroads, during which time he took part in several skirmishes and was also one of twenty men detailed as a guard to escort General Fitzhugh Lee, with some twenty soldiers, to the Union lines. He later guarded twenty Confederate soldiers after Lee's surrender, keeping them in a building until morning, when they were released. He continued to serve with his regiment until the close of the war and was then mustered out at Alexandria. Later he marched to Washington, D. C., where he participated in the grand review, and was then honorably discharged at Harrisburg on the 17th of June, 1865. Throughout his entire service he lost no time through sickness or other causes, was always on duty and was loyal and brave in his defense of the old flag and the cause which it represented.

When the country no longer needed his services, Mr. Wentzel returned home, where he assisted in the work of the farm and remained until after the fall crops were harvested. He then went to the pineries, where he worked in the timber through the following winter, and when spring came he boarded a canalboat at Williamsport and went to Baltimore. He made four trips to Key West, two from Baltimore and two from Fortress Monroe. Upon his return to his native state, having located in the county in 1857. He was at that time a young man in 1870 came west, locating in Knox county, Illinois, where he obtained employment on a farm, working by the month for over a year. In 1872 in that county, he was united in marriage to Miss Angeline Cline, a native of Pennsylvania, where she was reared and educated. They began their domestic life upon a rented farm which Mr. Wentzel continued to operate for several years. He then removed to Iowa and took up his abode upon a farm which he had previously purchased in Taylor county. This farm, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres on section 26, Grant township, was but partially improved when it came into his possession, but he immediately set about bringing his fields under a high state of cultivation. He erected a comfortable residence and a good, substantial barn, and has introduced upon the place various improvements which serve to make it one of the valuable and desirable properties of the township. He has made a close study of agriculture and is methodical, systematic and progressive, so that he is numbered among the substantial and successful farmers of his section of the county. In connection with his farming he engages in stock raising and this branch of his business is proving a very gratifying source of income.

As the years have come and gone the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wentzel has been blessed with six children, five of whom are now living, namely: Charles Ira, who follows the occupation of farming; David Leroy, who is married and operates a farm in Platte township, Taylor county; Laura May, the wife of F. L. Rood, of Clearfield, Iowa; Lydia Alice, who married Ed Grant of Northville, South Dakota; and Lucinda Adell, the wife of George Crane, of Ringgold county, Iowa. Mary F. passed away when three years of age.



Mr. and Mrs. Wentzel are members of the United Presbyterian church of Clearfield and are people of the highest personal worth, occupying an enviable place in the social circles of the community in which they reside. Politically Mr. Wentzel is a democrat although he cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864 while serving in the army. He also supported James A. Garfield, and it is a coincidence that both candidates were elected on his birthday and both were assassinated. He served as township trustee three or four different terms and was sent as delegate to various county conventions. His friends, and they are many, know him to be a man of high principles and stalwart purposes, and throughout the community in which he resides he commands the respect and confidence of those with whom he has come in contact.

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### JOHN P. KEENAN.

John P. Keenan is known as a progressive farmer, stock feeder and shipper and since 1895 he has made his home in Blockton, where he owns a nice residence, although he still retains possession of a valuable farm of three hundred acres, located within a mile and a quarter of Blockton. Mr. Keenan is a native of Greene county, Pennsylvania, born December 27, 1857, and came as a young man of eighteen years to the west, making a location first in Taylor county, Iowa. He was here engaged three years in herding cattle. Subsequently he purchased a farm in Ringgold county, this state, and removing thereto, was engaged in its operation for several years. He then returned to Taylor county and purchased his present farm in Jefferson township, his place embracing three hundred acres of fine farming land. For a long period Mr. Keenan gave his entire attention to cultivating his farm and after taking possession he built a new house, supplied with all conveniences, built a barn and other outbuildings, set out an orchard and shade trees and his place is now one of the valuable properties of Jefferson township and Taylor county. While still residing on the farm he also fed stock on quite an extensive scale, shipping annually about six carloads of cattle to the city markets. In 1895 Mr. Keenan left the farm and purchased a residence in Blockton, which he has since occupied. He is still engaged in buying and shipping stock. He makes his purchases both in Iowa and Missouri and his long experience in this line of business has made him an excellent judge of stock, so that he is able to carry on a very profitable business.

It was during his residence in Ringgold county that Mr. Keenan was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Minnie Norton, whom he wedded February 18, 1884. Mrs. Keenan was born in Brown county, Illinois, a daughter of M. K. Norton. The latter was born in Butler county, Pennsylvania, and was there reared and married to Miss Rebecca Nelson, a native of Indiana county, that state. While still residing in the east Mr. Norton engaged in farming but in an early day went to Brown county, Illinois, while in 1868 he continued his journey westward, then locating in Ringgold county, Iowa. He there engaged in farming and spent his remaining days, passing away in 1888. Mrs. Norton survived for



several years but is now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Keenan lost their only child, Hugh, who died when but eleven months old.

Mr. Keenan has been a life long democrat but would never consent to hold public office, preferring to give his attention to his private business affairs. He has always lived at peace with fellowmen. He has never incurred an indebtedness, nor has he ever sued any man. Mrs. Keenan is a member and an active worker in the Christian church. They are people of the highest respectability, and Mr. Keenan has a very wide acquaintance in Taylor and adjoining counties, his business transactions taking him to various sections of this state and Missouri. He has advanced year by year in the business world and today he stands as one of the most prominent stock buyers and feeders of this section of Iowa.

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### MYRON LE ROY BURT.

Varied business interests enter into the development, growth and progress of Bedford and among the enterprises which are indicative of the city's advancement is that of which Myron Le Roy Burt is proprietor. He is conducting a successful business under the name of the Bedford Light, Heat & Power Company and in all of his business relations shows a ready adaptability to the needs at hand and an intelligent appreciation of the opportunities that are presented. He was born near Minonk, Marshall county, Illinois, June 24, 1878.

His father, Joseph Frank Burt, was likewise a native of that state and is now a farmer of Lane county, Kansas, where he has lived for the past eighteen years. He was reared, however, in Marshall county, Illinois, and there resided through the period of his early manhood. He married Miss Margaret Jane Shanklin, who was born in Kentucky and was a daughter of James and Sarah (Perkins) Shanklin, who were likewise natives of that state. Her father was a farmer by occupation and became an early resident of Marshall county, Illinois, where he died when eighty-eight years of age. His widow still survives and is now about ninety-two years of age. They were the parents of three sons and a daughter, the latter being Margaret Jane, who became Mrs. Burt. Both Mr. and Mrs. Burt are members of the Christian church and their many good qualities of heart and mind have won for them the friendship and kindly regard of those with whom business or social relations have brought them in contact. They have three children: James Floyd, living in Greensburg, Kansas; Myron L., of this review; and Clarence Leslie, also of Greensburg.

After spending the first eight years of his life in his native county M. L. Burt accompanied his parents on their removal to Rockford, Illinois, where they lived for four years. He was a youth of twelve when he went with them to Lane county, Kansas, where he acquired a common-school education, after which he spent two years in the Kansas University at Lawrence. He next returned to Rockford, where he began working in the electric light business and in December, 1902, he came to Bedford and purchased the Bedford Light, Heat and Power plant, which he has since operated. His establishment is well equipped



and he gives to his patrons good service in all these connections. He has now many subscribers and his business is steadily increasing in volume and importance.

Mr. Burt was married September 17, 1901, to Miss Mabel K. Keith, a daughter of Lewis and Louisa (Farley) Keith. Two children were born of that union, Myron Le Roy, Jr., and one who died in infancy. The parents are members of the Christian church and Mr. Burt belongs to Bedford Lodge, No. 91, I. O. O. F., and to Bedford Lodge, No. 101, K. P. His study of the political questions and issues of the day has led him to give unfaltering allegiance to the republican party and in 1908 he was elected on that ticket to represent the eighth district in the state legislature, receiving a majority of three hundred and sixty-five. He is now serving on the railroads and transportation, mines and mining, municipal corporations, labor, suppression of intemperance, telephones, claims, institute for feeble-minded and enrolled bills committees, and is chairman of the senatorial district. He keeps well informed concerning the issues before the people and his labors in support of his party have been far-reaching and effective. Moreover, he is always progressive as well as loyal in his citizenship and the political honor to which he has attained is worthily won. In local affairs he is a champion of all those interests which are a matter of civic virtue and civic pride, and his record as a business man and citizen well entitles him to the high regard in which he is uniformly held.

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#### GEORGE S. BEACH.

There are few citizens of Taylor county who more richly merit the title of a self-made man than does George S. Beach, who occupies a foremost rank among the prominent and progressive agriculturists and business men of Grove township. A native of New York, he was born in Herkimer county on the 15th of December, 1853, and he continued to make his home in the Empire State until ten years of age. In 1863 he came west with his mother to Illinois, taking up his abode in Monmouth with an uncle, General Harding, by whom he was reared to manhood. General Harding was a very prominent man in his locality, having served one or more terms in congress from the Monmouth congressional district. He was colonel of the Eighty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry during the Civil war and was in command during the second battle of Fort Donelson.

Mr. Beach acquired his early education in the schools of Monmouth and later, upon reaching years of maturity, was employed by his uncle to manage his farming interests. Later he attended school in Chicago and studied law with a cousin in that city, and upon the completion of his legal course was admitted to the bar. Returning to Monmouth he again took charge of his uncle's farms, being thus engaged until the time of his marriage, after which, in 1876, he came to Iowa and purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in Taylor county. The following year he established his home upon that farm and set about its further development. Systematic, methodical and progressive in his methods, he so carefully managed his affairs that as the years passed he became very successful and was able to add to his original purchase from time to time until today his farm consists of five



hundred and sixty acres of valuable land on sections 35 and 36, Grove township, all of which is under a high state of cultivation. In its midst stands a large and commodious farmhouse, surrounded by a neat and well kept lawn, and in the rear are found two substantial barns and good outbuildings. He also has a fine orchard and grove of his own planting and has erected three sets of buildings upon the farm, all of which are comparatively new and in excellent condition. The farm is one of the best improved properties in the locality, bespeaking in its attractive appearance the care and labor bestowed upon it by its owner and indicating the fact that he has ever kept in close touch with the modern spirit of progress which is manifest in agricultural lines. For some years he has, in connection with his general farming, given considerable attention to raising and dealing in stock, making a specialty of breeding Galloway cattle, being the owner of a herd of pure-blooded registered stock, with a fine imported bull at its head. He is also a breeder and dealer in pure blooded Shropshire sheep and Poland China hogs, and his stock interests have proved a very gratifying source of revenue to him. That he has been eminently successful in his business affairs is indicated in the fact that aside from his extensive farming property he owns two good business houses in Lenox and two residences.

On the 12th of November, 1874, Mr. Beach was united in marriage to Miss Luella E. Cowan, a native of Illinois, having been born, reared and educated in Monmouth. She is a daughter of William Cowan, a pioneer settler of Warren county, Illinois, removing to that state from Pennsylvania at an early date. Mrs. Beach is a lady of many excellent traits of heart and mind, who has a large circle of warm friends in the community. By her marriage to Mr. Beach she became the mother of eight children, the eldest, Alice E., having passed away in her sixth year. The others are: George H., who is married and resides on one of his father's farms; one who died in infancy; Nellie L., who still resides under the parental roof; Effie J., the wife of Lee Jacoby, of Lenox; Edna M., the twin sister of Effie J., who became the wife of Harry Holbrook, of Concordia, Kansas; Luella E., who wedded James Cottrell, a prominent farmer of Platte township, Taylor county; and Clifford S., who is a student at Ames College.

Fraternally Mr. Beach is a Royal Arch Mason, belonging to the blue lodge at Lenox and the chapter at Corning, having served as senior deacon in the former for several years, while he and his wife and three children are members of the Eastern Star. In politics he gave his allegiance to the republican party for a number of years, but recently has become rather independent in his views, being governed at the polls by the character of the men and measures rather than by party ties. He has been called to positions of honor and trust, a fact that clearly indicates the confidence reposed in him by his fellow citizens. He was elected assessor of Grove township and served in that capacity for ten years, and has been sent as a delegate to numerous state, county and congressional conventions.

During his residence in Taylor county, which extends over a period of more than thirty years, Mr. Beach has taken an active and influential part in the work of progress and advancement which has been carried on within its borders and has come to be recognized as one of its most public-spirited and representative citizens. Starting out in his business career in this county as a poor man, without capital or influence to aid him, he has, by indefatigable energy, untiring persever-



ance and well directed efforts, made continuous progress in the business world, so that, with the aid of his estimable wife, he has accumulated much valuable property and is ranked among Taylor county's most substantial business men. No man's history indicates more clearly the value and power of close application, of concentration, of earnest and honorable purpose and of wise utilization of opportunity.

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### J. T. DUNLAP.

J. T. Dunlap is numbered among the prominent, progressive and successful citizens of Taylor county, who, throughout his residence in Iowa, has improved various farming properties and through his labors has assisted materially in the work of the general development and advancement. He was born in Adams county, Ohio, May 1, 1859, and is a son of James R. and Mary C. (Taylor) Dunlap, natives of Pennsylvania and Adams county, Ohio, respectively. At an early date the father left the Keystone State and with his parents went to Ohio, where he was reared and married. He followed the occupation of farming for some years in Ohio and then in 1863 enlisted as a soldier in the Civil war, becoming a member of the Second Ohio Heavy Artillery. He served throughout the remainder of the war and was honorably discharged, after which he returned to Adams county, Ohio. Subsequently he removed to Mercer county, Illinois, where he operated a rolling and flour mill for about three years, when he sold out and purchased a farm, upon which he resided until 1881. In that year he removed to Lenox, Iowa, where his remaining days were passed. The subject of this review is the eldest in a family of six sons born unto Mr. and Mrs. James R. Dunlap, the others being: John N.; George P.; Robert S., deceased; Charles E., and an infant deceased. With exception of our subject all reside in California.

J. T. Dunlap was a lad of ten years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois, and on his father's farm he spent the years of his boyhood and youth. He acquired his preliminary education in the common schools of Mercer county and later supplemented this training by a good academic course. Shortly after laying aside his text-books he accompanied his parents on their removal to Adams county, Iowa, where the family took up its abode on a farm which the father purchased about four miles north of Lenox. There Mr. Dunlap remained with his father and mother until their removal to Lenox, after which he took charge of the home farm and conducted it successfully for two years. He then went to Kansas, where he took up a homestead claim, upon which he resided for two years. At the expiration of that period he traded the farm for land in Adams county, Iowa, upon which he located and to the further cultivation and improvement of which he directed his efforts for some time. Later he sold that property and removed to California, engaging in prospecting in that state for one year.

After his return to Iowa Mr. Dunlap bought a farm in Grant township, Taylor county, near Clearfield, but soon afterward sold it and purchased land in Adams county. This property consisted of one hundred and sixty acres lo-

cated north of Lenox. He put many modern improvements upon the place, erected good barns and outbuildings and continued to reside thereon until 1902, in which year he sold it at a great advance over the purchase price. He then invested in two hundred and forty acres on section 5, Platte township, Taylor county, where he now resides and which he has brought under an excellent state of cultivation. The soil is naturally rich and fertile and under his careful management is yielding abundant crops annually. He erected a large two-story residence upon the place and also two big barns and substantial outbuildings, and the farm lacks none of those modern conveniences and accessories for facilitating farm labor. In connection with general farming, he engages extensively in the stock-raising business, breeding, feeding and shipping cattle, hogs and sheep. He also makes a specialty of breeding pure blooded Shire horses, in which connection he has raised and sold some very high priced colts. He is the owner of a fine imported English Shire stallion for breeding purposes. By close application to his various interests, and by constant exertion combined with good judgment, he has gained a place among the substantial citizens of Taylor county, and the gratifying degree of prosperity to which he has attained clearly indicates the business ability which he has displayed.

On the 20th of May, 1884, in Adams county, Iowa, Mr. Dunlap was united in marriage to Miss Hattie E. Fulton, a native of Benton county, Iowa, where she was reared. She received good educational advantages and is a graduate of the Lenox high school. Unto this union were born three children, namely: William K., who is married and carries on general farming in Taylor county; Eula B., the wife of Earl Rogers, a farmer of Adams county; and James L., still under the parental roof.

Mr. Dunlap's religious faith is indicated in his membership in the United Presbyterian church, while his political allegiance is given to the republican party. During his residence in Adams county he served as township trustee and assessor and is now filling the office of president of the school board, the cause of education finding in him a warm friend. He is thoroughly identified with the interests of Taylor county, his influence at all times being upon the side of progress, reform and improvement. His life has been actuated by a laudable ambition to attain success and as the years have passed he has achieved a measure of prosperity which has come to him as the reward of persistent and earnest labor, so that he has gained a place among the representative agriculturists and stock dealers of his community. Moreover, the standard of life that he set up for himself has been one that has commanded for him the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens.

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#### FRANCIS J. ROGERS.

Francis J. Rogers, who since 1901 has been identified with the hardware interests of New Market, is meeting with gratifying success and ranks high among the progressive merchants of the city. He was born near West Point, in Cuming county, Nebraska, on the 5th of October, 1874, and is a son of John and Eliza A. (Chappell) Rogers. Acquiring his early education in the schools of Adams and



Taylor counties, Iowa, he devoted his time to his text-books and remained upon the home farm, assisting his father in the work of the fields during the vacation periods until he was eighteen years of age and throughout this time he learned many valuable lessons in the school of experience. Subsequently he entered Simpson College at Indianola, Iowa, where he remained for one year, and then he engaged in agricultural pursuits on his own account.

Mr. Rogers was thus identified for two years, the expiration of which period witnessed the beginning of his career as a hardware merchant. He entered business at Guss, Iowa, but after one year he sold out and came to New Market, in 1901, where he entered the hardware business in partnership with J. S. Harris. This relation existed for one year, when Mr. Rogers' brother, G. S. Rogers, entered the firm and two years later he purchased the interest of Mr. Harris, since which time the brothers have continued to conduct the store. From its inception the business has been most successful, having gained throughout the intervening years a very extensive patronage which is constantly growing. The enterprise is conducted along progressive and modern lines and the policy of the house is such as to inspire confidence in its patrons, while Mr. Rogers, recognizing the fact that satisfied customers are the best advertisement, makes a close study of the needs of the people and attempts at all times to meet the demands of the general public. He possesses good business ability and executive control and these characteristics are potent elements in the successful conduct and expansion of the business.

It was on the 6th of March, 1901, in Bedford, Taylor county, that Mr. Rogers was united in marriage to Miss Orpha Eells, a daughter of E. H. and Lucy (Huss) Eells, the former a retired farmer making his home in New Market, Iowa. In fraternal relations Mr. Rogers is a Mason, holding membership in the blue lodge, and he is likewise affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In politics he gives his allegiance to the democratic party and is filling the office of township clerk, while he is also serving as a director of the New Market schools, the cause of education finding in him a warm champion. Loyal and progressive in his citizenship, he exerts his influence upon the side of reform, advancement and improvement and his many excellent personal traits have gained for him a wide acquaintance during his residence in Taylor county, his fellowmen entertaining for him high regard, esteem and good will.

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#### D. B. PAXTON.

Among the prominent business men of Blockton may be numbered D. B. Paxton, who is conducting a general store in this city, having been located here since 1895. Mr. Paxton was born in Preble county, Ohio, December 23, 1851, and was there reared to farm life, while his education was acquired in the common schools. In 1880, believing the advantages of the west offered good opportunities to the ambitious young man, he came to Iowa and locating in Warren county, where he engaged in farming for five years. He then secured employment in a store at Milo, being engaged as clerk about six years, after which he purchased an interest in the store and continued at that place until 1895. Disposing of his interests



there, he then came to Blockton and embarked in his present business, carrying a full line of dry goods and groceries and handling only the best grade of goods. High quality and moderate prices have made this enterprise one of the best in Blockton.

It was in Preble county, Ohio, in 1875, that Mr. Paxton was united in marriage to Miss Martha Smith, who was born and reared in that county. In early life he gave his political support to the republican party but is now a strong prohibitionist, though at local elections he votes independently. He has served as a member of the city council three years and has been identified with the schools. He helped to organize the Blockton high school and is ever interested in advancement along educational lines, whereby the children of the neighborhood can be benefited. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist church and are teachers and active workers in the Sunday-school.

A public-spirited citizen, Mr. Paxton has been an influential factor in many improvements that have been made in Blockton since the time of his arrival. He has a kindly, genial nature and is very considerate in his intercourse with all people, being to all equally affable, whether they are poor or have wealth. He is a typical business man and Blockton is proud to number him among her best and most substantial citizens.

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#### S. J. HOPSON.

About four years ago S. J. Hopson, who enjoys the reputation of being the best photographer in Taylor county, established himself in business in Bedford. His studio, located on the corner of Main and Court streets, exhibits some fine examples of his art, evincing the fact that he is more than an artisan, being in truth a real artist. A native of this county he was born February 7, 1878, his parents being James Elliot and Lydia S. (Honeysett) Hopson. The former was born in Chautauqua county, New York, December 4, 1831, and spent the years of his boyhood and young manhood in the place of his birth. For a considerable period he was employed on railroads in the east, in the capacities of brakeman and engineer, and then, in 1875, came to Iowa, locating upon an unimproved farm in Ross township, Taylor county. He still makes his home there, but while he has for so many years been engaged in agricultural pursuits, he is better known as an insurance man, for during the past thirty-four years he has been the agent of the Farmer's Insurance Company, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

James Hopson has been twice married. Of his first union there were two children, namely: Albert, who is a farmer in this county; and Edna, who is the wife of Ellsworth Foreman, of Bedford. His present wife is also a native of Chautauqua county, New York, where her birth occurred March 22, 1833. By her previous marriage she had two children but only one, Virtue A. Gates, is living. By her union with Mr. Hopson two children have also been born: S. J., the subject of this sketch; and John who has a family and lives with his father on the farm in Ross township.



The reputation of being the leading photographer of the county is not one which has been hastily conferred upon S. J. Hopson but one to which he has proved his right by the character of the work he has been able to turn out. Many years' experience has given him a skill in the posing of his subjects and in the developments of his plates and pictures, and while part of this cleverness may have been gained through apprenticeship to some of the prominent men in his line throughout the United States, the artistic touches which make his products distinguished among many others are the outgrowth of his own abilities, of his sensitiveness to line and form. In short it is the combination of those qualities which make him more than a mere manipulator of an instrument. It is for those characteristics of his, recognizable wherever his pictures are on exhibition, that he has been accorded a title of which he may in all modesty be justifiably proud.

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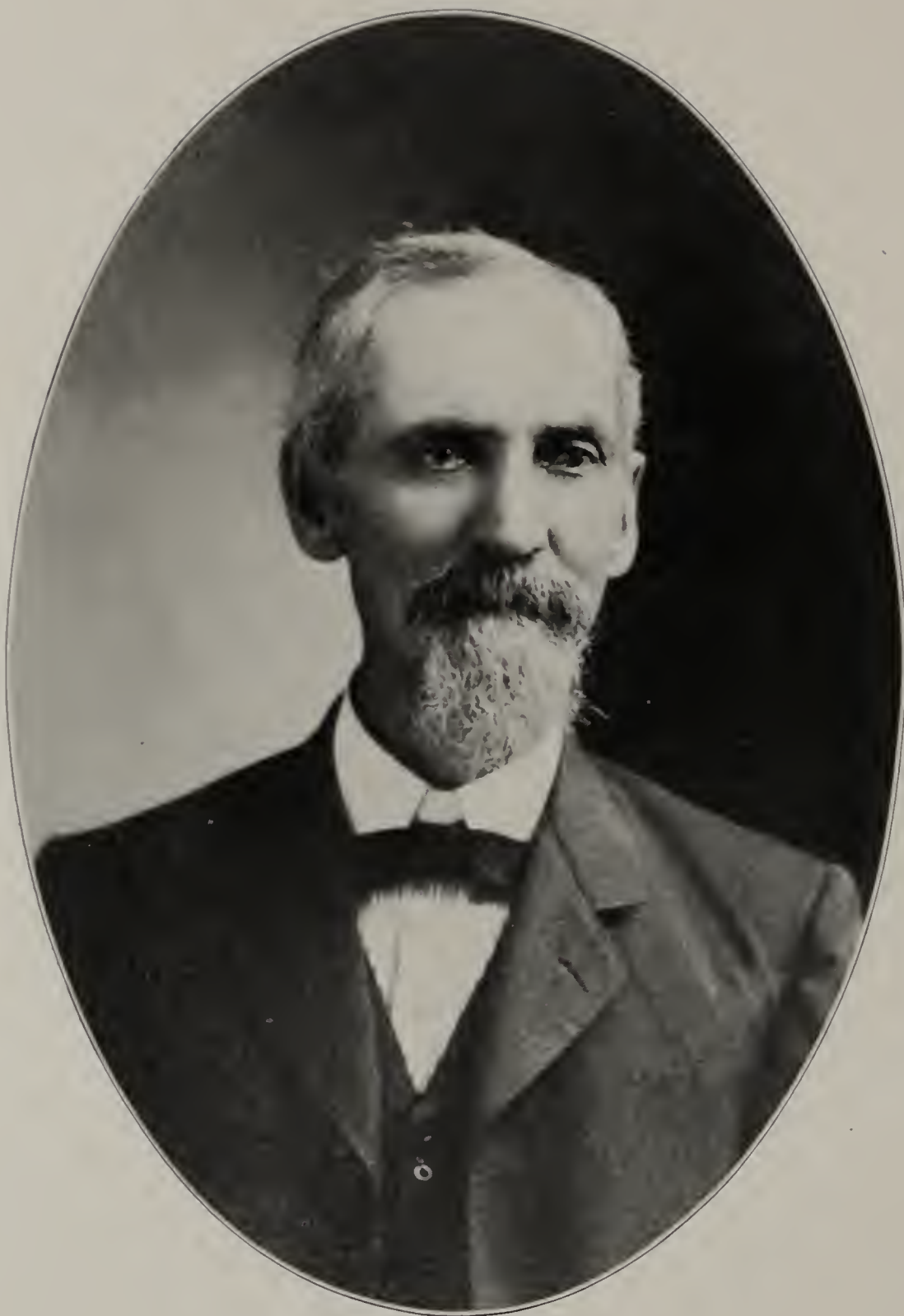
### JAMES T. CARTER.

Among the citizens of Grove township, Taylor county, whose well-directed efforts along agricultural lines have made it possible for them to withdraw from active business life and enjoy in well-earned rest the fruits of their former toil, is James T. Carter, a native of Muskingum county, Ohio, his birth occurring near Zanesville on the 24th of April, 1840. Under the parental roof he was reared to manhood, acquiring his education in the district schools of his native county, and at the same time he gained a thorough and practical knowledge of the best methods of plowing, planting and harvesting, assisting his father in the operation of the home farm until about nineteen years of age.

Mr. Carter then went to Henderson county, Illinois, where he later purchased and opened up a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in partnership with his brother, W. M. Carter. He carried on agricultural pursuits in that county until 1879, in which year he came to Iowa, having previously purchased four hundred acres of raw prairie land in Grove township, Taylor county. For some time he was engaged in the arduous and difficult task of developing new farming land, in the meantime meeting many obstacles and hardships, but determination and ambition were strong within him and he persevered from year to year until his efforts were crowned with gratifying success. He and his brother became the owners of one thousand acres of valuable land. The property, which was but partially improved when it came into their possession, was, under their wise management and careful direction, brought under a high state of cultivation. Later the brothers severed their connection and divided the property, and James T. Carter added to his holdings from time to time until he eventually owned six hundred and forty-five acres of well-developed land, all in one body, constituting him one of the extensive landowners of Grove township. He made many improvements upon the farm and in addition to general agricultural pursuits gave considerable attention to stock interests, breeding and dealing in Percheron horses, and having in his possession many fine specimens. He also made a specialty of feeding and fattening cattle for the market, and the excellence of his stock commanded high prices and ready sales. He was thus engaged upon that farm







JAMES T. CARTER



MRS. JAMES T. CARTER





until the year 1902, when he took up his abode upon his present farm, consisting of five hundred acres of valuable land on section 28, Grove township, and equipped with three sets of buildings, all in excellent condition. It is a well-improved property, in the midst of which he has erected a neat and attractive residence, and here he is now living practically retired from the active duties of business life.

It was on the 9th of March, 1863, in Henderson county, Illinois, that Mr. Carter was united in marriage to Miss S. S. Lovitt, who was born, reared and educated in Muskingum county, Ohio. Unto this union have been born two sons and two daughters, one daughter, Alta May, having passed away in infancy. The others are: Olivia, the wife of A. L. Gordon, of whom mention is made on another page of this book; Darwin L., an extensive stock raiser and farmer of Grove township, a sketch of whom also appears elsewhere in this volume; and Claud, engaged in farming and stock raising in this township.

Mr. Carter's religious belief is indicated in his membership in the Blue Grove Christian church, the teachings of which form the guiding influence in his life. Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise he has given his political allegiance to the democracy on all national issues, but at local elections he supports the best men and measures, regardless of party ties. He served as township clerk for a number of years and has been closely and helpfully identified with educational interests for some time, doing all in his power to advance the standard and efficiency of the schools throughout the township. The record of Mr. Carter has been a long and useful one, in which his efforts have not only been a means of winning for him a most gratifying measure of success, but have also been potent elements in the growth and development of the community at large. Public-spirited in his citizenship, he has ever cooperated in all measures which have for their object material, intellectual and moral development and advancement, and now, in the evening of life, he is yet keenly interested in the community's welfare, the consensus of public opinion according him a foremost place among the most substantial, representative and valued citizens of the township.

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#### JOSEPH COOPER.

An excellent farm of three hundred and twenty acres located on section 27, Grant township, pays tribute to the care and labor bestowed upon it by Joseph Cooper who, through his industry and well directed efforts in agricultural lines, is meeting with a most creditable degree of prosperity. He was born on the 17th of May, 1866, in Lee county, Illinois, his parents being William and Hannah Cooper. He is a brother of J. R. Cooper, a prominent business man and banker of Conway, Taylor county, extended mention of whom is made on another page of this volume. Reared to agricultural pursuits on his father's farm, he acquired his education in the district schools near his home and when not busy with his text-books assisted in the work of the fields, early becoming familiar with the best methods of plowing, planting and harvesting. He continued to give



his father the benefit of his assistance until the latter's death, after which he remained upon the homestead, caring for his mother, for a number of years.

The year 1891 witnessed his arrival in Taylor county, and he settled in Grant township, purchasing the farm of three hundred and twenty acres on section 27 which is now his home. Under his care the soil, which is naturally rich and fertile, has been brought under a high state of cultivation. He has made a close study of agriculture, and this, combined with the thorough and comprehensive training which he received under the direction of his father upon the home farm, has well equipped him for the successful conduct of his farming interests. He also engages extensively in feeding cattle and hogs and fattens from two to three carloads of stock each year. In the midst of his farm he has erected a comfortable and attractive dwelling and has two good barns, one of which is not yet completed. The entire place is well fenced and contains a fine orchard and grove, while it is equipped with all the modern accessories and conveniences that go to make up a model farm.

It was in September, 1889, that Mr. Cooper was united in marriage to Miss Anna Erbes, a native of Lee county, Illinois, where she was reared, educated and married. Unto this union have been born four children: Flossie, Frank C., Howard and Grant, all of whom are still under the parental roof.

Politically Mr. Cooper has given stanch allegiance to the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. On that ticket he was elected to serve on the township board of Lee county and also filled the office of supervisor, while since his arrival in Grant township, Taylor county, he has been elected township clerk, which office he filled for six years, and is now serving as township trustee. He has also been sent as a delegate to various county conventions and has been a prominent and influential figure in the affairs of the party in this county. In his fraternal relations he is a Master Mason. His business interests have been carefully conducted, his duties of citizenship capably performed, and at all time he has been true to the obligations and responsibilities that have devolved upon him in every relation of life, making him one of the worthy and valued citizens of Grant township.

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#### CHARLES BECHERER.

As the years are added to the cycle of the centuries the ranks of the veterans of the Civil war are constantly growing smaller as one by one those who so valiantly stood by the Union in the darkest hour of her history pass to their final rest. Among those who still remain is numbered Charles Becherer who, although he has almost reached the Psalmist's allotted span of three score years and ten, is still active and helpful in the world's work. A native of Germany, he was born in Prussia on the 26th of January, 1840, a son of Charles and Hanna Becherer. The father, who was also born in Germany, was there reared and married, and was engaged for a number of years as a stage driver in the employ of the government. In 1851 he came to America with his five children, the family home being established in Wisconsin near the city of Milwaukee.



Charles Becherer, whose name initiates this review, was a lad of eleven years when he came with his parents to America and was reared to manhood in their Wisconsin home. He attended the district schools in the acquirement of an education and the period of his boyhood was spent in the usual manner, his time being divided between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the tasks assigned him by parental authority. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-one years of age, when he came to Iowa, locating in Scott county, where he worked as a farm hand for a time. In August, 1861, however, he responded to the country's call for troops and enlisted as a member of Company C, Second Iowa Cavalry. He went south to Tennessee and the first engagement in which he took part was the siege and battle of Corinth, Mississippi. The next important battles were at Tupelo and Nashville, but in the meantime he had participated in many minor engagements and skirmishes. Later he veteranized in Tennessee and returned home on a thirty days' furlough to visit his parents. He was mustered out and honorably discharged at Davenport, Iowa, in October, 1865, after four years of valiant and faithful service, during which period he won a most creditable military record through his courage and bravery.

When the country no longer needed his services Mr. Becherer returned to agricultural pursuits and for several years was employed as a farm hand, while he later operated a farm in the capacity of renter for some time. The year 1875 witnessed his arrival in Taylor county, and he purchased the farm in Grove township upon which he now resides. It consisted of eighty acres of raw land upon which not a furrow had been turned, and he at once directed his energies toward its development. He commenced breaking the sod and converting the land into productive fields, and with the passing of the years the work of transformation was steadily carried forward until today the farm has been brought under a high state of cultivation. He fenced his fields and erected a comfortable dwelling and substantial barns and outbuildings, and today the place is one of the well improved properties of the locality, indicating in its neat and attractive appearance the industry and thrift of the owner. He carries on general farming and in addition is engaged to some extent in the dairy and chicken-raising business. He keeps about eight cows, selling his milk and cream to the creamery, and he has sold about four hundred dollars worth of eggs and poultry since New Years, 1909, one month's sales averaging sixty dollars for eggs. His excellent business ability has been an important feature in his success, his industry, energy and perseverance being salient elements in his business career.

On the 21st of October, 1891, Mr. Becherer was united in marriage in Grove township to Miss Sarah E. Cochran, who was born in Hancock county, Illinois, where she was reared until eighteen years of age, acquiring her education in the district schools. She is a daughter of Thomas Cochran, who sometime ago moved from Adams county, Illinois, to Grinnell and three years later came to Taylor county, Iowa. Unto this union have been born three children: Fred C., Esther Myrtle and William E., all still under the parental roof.

Mr. and Mrs. Becherer hold membership in the Presbyterian church, the teachings of which form the guiding influence of their lives, while he holds pleasant relations with his old army comrades through his membership in the Grand Army



post at Lenox. Politically he gives stalwart support to the republican party, which was the defense of the Union during the dark period of the Civil war, but he has never desired public office. He cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864 while serving in the army and has voted for every candidate upon that ticket since. Preeminently public-spirited, he has ever been as true to the interests of his country in all matters of citizenship as when he followed the old flag on southern battlefields.

During the many years of their residence in Taylor county Mr. and Mrs. Becherer have been witnesses of the work of improvement and advancement which has been carried on within its borders, and they have seen many of the best farms improved and developed, while at all times they have borne their share in the work of transformation, being ranked among the substantial and representative citizens of the community. Through industry, diligence and perseverance Mr. Becherer has attained a most gratifying measure of prosperity in his business ventures, having acquired a handsome competence which makes it possible for him now in the evening of life to withdraw from many of the more active and strenuous duties of business life and enjoy the fruits of his former toils. His success has come to him as the result of well directed efforts and honest business methods, and the honorable life which he has ever led has gained for him the respect, confidence and good will of all with whom he has come in contact.

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#### BERT F. WILSON.

Bert F. Wilson is numbered among the prominent business men of Taylor county, having conducted a bank at Sharpsburg for the past seven years. A native son of the county, he was born at Conway, April 11, 1878, of the marriage of Jerry and Caroline D. (Beall) Wilson. The father was born at Skaneateles, Onondago county, New York, April 29, 1839. He justly deserves mention as a self-made man. At the age of thirteen years he purchased his time of his father for one hundred dollars and started out in the world a penniless lad but full of native American grit. He left home and emigrated to Wisconsin, where he worked in the lumber region and did such other labor as might be offered in those days. His first earnings were used to pay his father for his time. In the early '60s he became imbued with the desire for western life and for several years freighted across the plains from the Missouri river to Denver. While in that section of the country he accumulated a little money and decided to return to the east. At that time southwestern Iowa was a sparsely settled region but he was endowed with keen business insight and foresaw the future possibilities of the country and settled in Taylor county in 1864. He then purchased a farm in Marshall township where he resided until the middle '70s when he removed to Conway and engaged in the lumber business. After withdrawing from that field he turned his attention to the grain business in which he continued until the fall of 1902, when he sold out and lived retired, enjoying the fruits of his former toil.



On the 6th of September, 1866, at Bedford, Jerry Wilson was united in marriage to Miss Caroline D. Beall, who passed away December 12, 1881. They became the parents of six children, five of whom are still living, namely: Mary Bannon, Etta Carter, Cora Seymour, Minnie Cooper and Bert F. Wilson. Following the death of his first wife Mr. Wilson was married November 12, 1882, to Mrs. Maggie M. Church, of Conway, who still survives. He was a man of keen discernment and sound business judgment and from time to time bought land until at his death he was the owner of nine hundred and twenty acres in Grant Marshall and Gay townships. A man of sterling qualities, liberal minded but firm in his convictions, cheerful in disposition, he loved the comforts of home and enjoyed not only the love and confidence of the members of his own household but also of others with whom he came in contact. He was always liberal in his dealings with his fellowmen and to the appeals of the needy he never turned a deaf ear. During his long years of residence in Conway he invariably identified himself with all public enterprises proposed for the benefit of the town and opposite his name on a subscription list was always found a liberal sum which he gave freely in behalf of public progress. During the last five years of his life he suffered from ill health, due to heart trouble, though he bore his sufferings patiently, always thinking of the comforts of his family even to the detriment of his own health. While on a visit to Excelsior Springs, Missouri, with the hope that his own and his wife's health might be benefited thereby, he passed away suddenly May 6, 1907. His long residence in Taylor county and his prominence as a land owner and business man made his acquaintance far-reaching. He was a member of Triangle Lodge, No. 348, A. F. & A. M. of Conway, and of Conway Lodge, No. 553, I. O. O. F., and in his life exemplified the beneficent spirit of those organizations.

Bert F. Wilson was reared in Conway and began his preliminary education in the schools of that town. He was graduated from the high school and afterward entered the Western Normal College at Shenandoah, where he pursued a commercial and shorthand course, after the completion of which he was engaged in that institution as Assistant Instructor in Commercial Branches. He thus served four years, and during that time completed the Normal Didactic and Scientific courses. He then took a course in penmanship at Columbus, Ohio, after which he returned to the Western Normal College and for five years had full charge of the Shenandoah Commercial Institute. This constituted the basis of his business career. In 1903, he came to Sharpsburg, since which time he has conducted what is known as the Sharpsburg Bank, a private institution owned by J. R. Cooper which has for security Taylor county real estate to the amount of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. Mr. Wilson has been cashier and has had charge of the bank since the organization and secured a good patronage; and the bank is today recognized as one of the strongest moneyed concerns of the county and one in which the people feel a just pride. It is solid and safe beyond question and its management is conservative.

Mr. Wilson was married in Conway, December 29, 1897, to Miss Nellie A. Cooper, a daughter of John R. Cooper, who is engaged in the banking business at Conway and is a large landowner of Taylor county. His sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Wilson was born and reared in Conway and



there acquired her early education while later she attended the Western Normal College at Shenandoah, Iowa, and Amity College at College Springs, Iowa. She is now acting as assistant cashier in the bank and is proving an able assistant to her husband in his business affairs. She is the mother of one daughter, Martha Belle, and the family have a nice home in Sharpsburg.

Politically Mr. Wilson is a republican and in the midst of a busy life has always found time for matters of general interest. He was active in securing the incorporation of the village and has been town clerk since the incorporation; while in many other ways he has done his full part toward the promotion of public measures. He is a Master Mason, belonging to the blue lodge at Conway, and both he and his wife are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In all directions in which he has bent his energies his efforts have been crowned with success and his methods are of interest to the commercial world, while a social, genial nature has endeared him to all with whom business or social intercourse has brought him in contact.

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#### JAMES E. WISE.

A fine farm of forty acres, located in Mason township, Taylor county, pays tribute to the care and attention bestowed upon it by James E. Wise, a native of Cedar county, Iowa, born on the 1st of February, 1867. He is a son of Owen and Catherine (Barnard) Wise, the former a farmer of Mason township. The father was a son of Henry Wise, who came from England at an early date, the family home being established in Ohio, from which state representatives of the name removed to Cedar county, Iowa. Owen Wise was a brother of the following: Mrs. Lizzie Dawson, a resident of Portland, Oregon; Mrs. Sarah Hardman, who passed away in Iowa; George, residing in California; Samuel, of Wilton, Iowa; and James, making his home in Iowa.

In the public schools of his native county James E. Wise acquired his education, remaining a student thereof until twenty years of age, and during this time, when not busy with his text-books, he assisted in the work of the farm, early becoming familiar with the duties that fall to the lot of the country lad. After completing his education he remained upon the old homestead and in fact continued to give his father the benefit of his assistance throughout almost his entire life. He did not leave the parental roof until his marriage, which occurred in his thirty-ninth year, when he received from his father the farm upon which he now resides and upon which there was a small mortgage to pay. The farm consists of forty acres of land situated in Mason township, to the further improvement of which he has directed his entire energies, with the result that it is now a valuable and attractive farming property, highly cultivated and yielding rich harvests annually. He practices rotation of crops, is progressive and up-to-date in his business methods and is meeting with most creditable prosperity.

On the 26th of March, 1906, Mr. Wise was united in marriage to Miss Cora Hulse, a daughter of John and Mary Hulse, the former a farmer and carpenter



of Clarinda. This union has been blessed with a little daughter, Wilma, who is the light and life of the household. Mr. Wise is a republican in politics and is well known throughout the community, where he has many warm friends, his salient characteristics winning for him the respect, confidence and good will of his fellowmen.

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### OSCAR M. DUNNING.

The life record of Oscar M. Dunning constitutes an interesting chapter in the history of Taylor county, with the development and progress of which he has been closely associated from pioneer days. Not only has he assisted in its material development but also in its moral progress and in the establishment of principles of citizenship which have born rich fruit in the life of the community. He was long identified with farming interest but since 1884 has lived retired in Bedford. A native of the Empire state, he was born in Cayuga county August 1, 1823, and is descended from a family which came originally from England. This branch was established in Connecticut at an early period in the colonization of that state, and Benjamin Dunning, the first of the ancestors of whom there is authentic record, was born in Warren, Litchfield county, Connecticut. From his birthplace he removed to central New York where he reared his large family. By his first marriage he had four children, Sallie, Abraham, Jacob and Isaac. His second wife was Mercy Shove, and to them were born eight children, namely: Betsey, Lois, Jemima, Clarinda, Mercy, Lorainy, Arilla and Benjamin Alva.

Dr. Isaac Dunning, a son of the first marriage and the father of Oscar M. Dunning, was born in Connecticut October 21, 1772, and after becoming a physician practiced his profession in both the east and the middle west. In 1832, he removed to Edwardsburg, Michigan, where he died in 1850. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Hulda Rood, was born July 3, 1783, and died December 2, 1861. Their children were: Horace B., who married Sarah A. Camp; Philander B., who married Fidelia Treat; Emily M., the wife of Uriel Enos; Barton B., who married Laura Stiles; Benjamin B., who married Harriet Loston; Isaac M., who died in infancy; Harriet M., who was the wife of Nathaniel Aldrich; and Oscar M., who is the only one of the family now living.

Oscar M. Dunning was ten years of age when his parents removed to Cass county, Michigan, and his education was acquired in the common schools, while his boyhood days were spent on his father's farm. He, too, became a farmer and cared for his parents in their later years, both father and mother making their home with him. In 1869, he came to Iowa, bringing with him the proceeds of the farm which he had sold in Michigan. Here he made investment in six hundred and forty acres of land five miles northwest of Bedford. It was an unimproved tract, but his previous experience, determined purpose and indefatigable energy enabled him to convert it into productive fields. As one of Taylor county's early settlers he did his full share in reclaiming the land and transforming it from its primitive condition into valuable farms. He not only tilled the soil but was also an extensive buyer, feeder and shipper of stock and



his business affairs were so managed that he won success in every undertaking. Year by year he cultivated and improved his farm until 1884, when he retired from active life and removed to Bedford, where he still makes his home. He yet owns four hundred and forty acres of his original tract and derives therefrom a substantial annual income.

On the 21st of March, 1845, in Edwardsburg, Michigan, Mr. Dunning was united in marriage to Miss Martha May, who was born in that state in 1829 and died March, 1858. By her marriage she had become the mother of six children, of whom the eldest, Mary Hulda, died in infancy. Milton O., who was born in Edwardsburg, Michigan, December 24, 1848, accompanied his parents to Taylor county and assisted his father in developing the farm during pioneer days. He became a successful agriculturist and made his home in Taylor county until 1902, when he removed to Parsons, Kansas. He was married March 6, 1881, to Miss Alice Bowers, who was born in 1855 and died August 17, 1908. Lehman H., the third of the family, was born in Edwardsburg, Michigan, April 12, 1850, and died in Indianapolis, Indiana, January 6, 1906. His boyhood days were spent in his native state and for two years after completing his literary education he attended medical lectures in Buffalo, New York. He then spent one year in Taylor county where his father had just settled, his time being devoted to teaching in country schools and to clerking in the drug store of Dr. A. M. Golliday, of Bedford. Resuming his medical course in Rush Medical College, of Chicago, he was graduated therefrom with the class of 1872. He began the practice of his profession in that year and as a country physician was forced to take long drives or horseback rides as he made his visits to his patients. His practice grew rapidly, however, and he came to be ranked with the eminent physicians and surgeons of Indiana, while his medical experience and his skill in practice gained him a reputation that was by no means limited by the confines of that state. It was as a man and friend, however, that he was most deeply loved and will be longest remembered. His genial good nature and his rare sympathy and tenderness appealed to all who came in contact with him, and his patients benefited not only by his professional skill but also in large measure by the encouragement and inspiration of his personality. He was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church and carried the helpful spirit of his religion into his daily life, remaining untainted by the materialism which seems to infect the majority of scientific students. On the contrary his soul was ever in harmony with the most delicate spiritual relationship and he resolutely adhered to that faith which through nineteen centuries has been a predominating influence for good in the world. On the 9th of December, 1875, he married Miss Harriet J. Beauchamp, who with three children, Florence, Lehman M. and Herbert P., survive him. The daughter was married in 1909 to Gilbert Elliot of South Bend, Indiana. The elder son was graduated from the Medical College of Indiana, in which his father was an instructor prior to his death. He has now taken up the practice of medicine and has spent one year as interne in the City Hospital of Indianapolis. Eva, the fourth of the children of Mr. Dunning's first marriage, was born in Edwardsburg, August 4, 1852, and was married January 23, 1875, to James Beauchamp, their home being now in Cass county, Michigan. Hulda R., who was born June 31, 1855,



became the wife of Ed Marsh in November, 1875, and is living in Berrien county, Michigan. Martha, the youngest, was born December 24, 1857, and on the 3d of July, 1878, became the wife of Hays C. Fordyce, of Creston, Iowa.

On the 25th of December, 1858, Mr. Dunning married again, his second union being with Miss Anna M. Wilkinson, who was born August 30, 1838. There were four children of that marriage. Sidney the eldest, born August 9, 1861, was married August 20, 1884, to Miss Anna Rose, and now resides in St. Joseph, Missouri. Mary, who was born December 11, 1862, makes her home with her father. Milo B., born on the 25th of May, 1874, is a successful physician in Bedford. Following his parents' removal to that city during his boyhood days he acquired his education in the schools there and was graduated from high school with the class of 1892. He then became a medical student in Bedford with Dr. V. R. King as his preceptor, and later spent one term in the Kentucky school of Medicine at Louisville. Subsequently he entered the Indiana Medical College at Indianapolis, from which he was graduated in 1895. He spent one year in the City Dispensary there, after which he located for the practice of his profession in Michigan City, Indiana, where he remained for two years, moving thence to Taylor county. He practiced for six years in Siam but in the fall of 1908 opened an office in Bedford, where he has since pursued his chosen profession with success that is indicative of his skill and thorough understanding of the great scientific principles that underlie his work. On the 1st of January, 1903, he married Miss Olive L. Fowler, who was born October 22, 1875. Her father, Edward R. Fowler, who died in Parsons, Kansas, August 14, 1907, was for many years a resident of Taylor county, during which time he engaged in the grocery business and also served for two terms as auditor of the county. On his removal to Kansas he engaged in the real-estate business, to which he gave his attention until his death. His widow, Mrs. M. F. Fowler, still resides in Parsons. She was the mother of eleven children, and all of the nine girls of this family are married. Dr. and Mrs. Milo B. Dunning have three children: Lois, born November 10, 1904; Ruth, October 8, 1906; and Horace, September 15, 1907. Dr. Dunning is a republican in his political sympathies and for two terms, from 1900 until 1904, served as coroner of this county. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons, belonging to Taylor Lodge, No. 156, A. F. & A. M., at Bedford. He keeps abreast with the advance in the profession through his membership in the County Medical Society and in the Iowa State Medical Society. His practical knowledge of his profession, his care in diagnosis, and his conscientious performance of all duties have brought to him a large and remunerative practice, together with the unqualified esteem and regard of his fellow townsmen. He and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is serving on its official board as one of the church trustees.

Mildred D., the youngest of the children of Oscar M. Dunning, was born July 3, 1880, and on the 14th of August, 1906, became the wife of R. B. Edmonson an attorney of Parsons, Kansas. The mother, Mrs. Anna (Wilkinson) Dunning, passed away December 28, 1906. Had she lived two years longer they would have arrived at the half century of married life. She was a devoted mother, not only to her own children but to the five children born of her husband's first



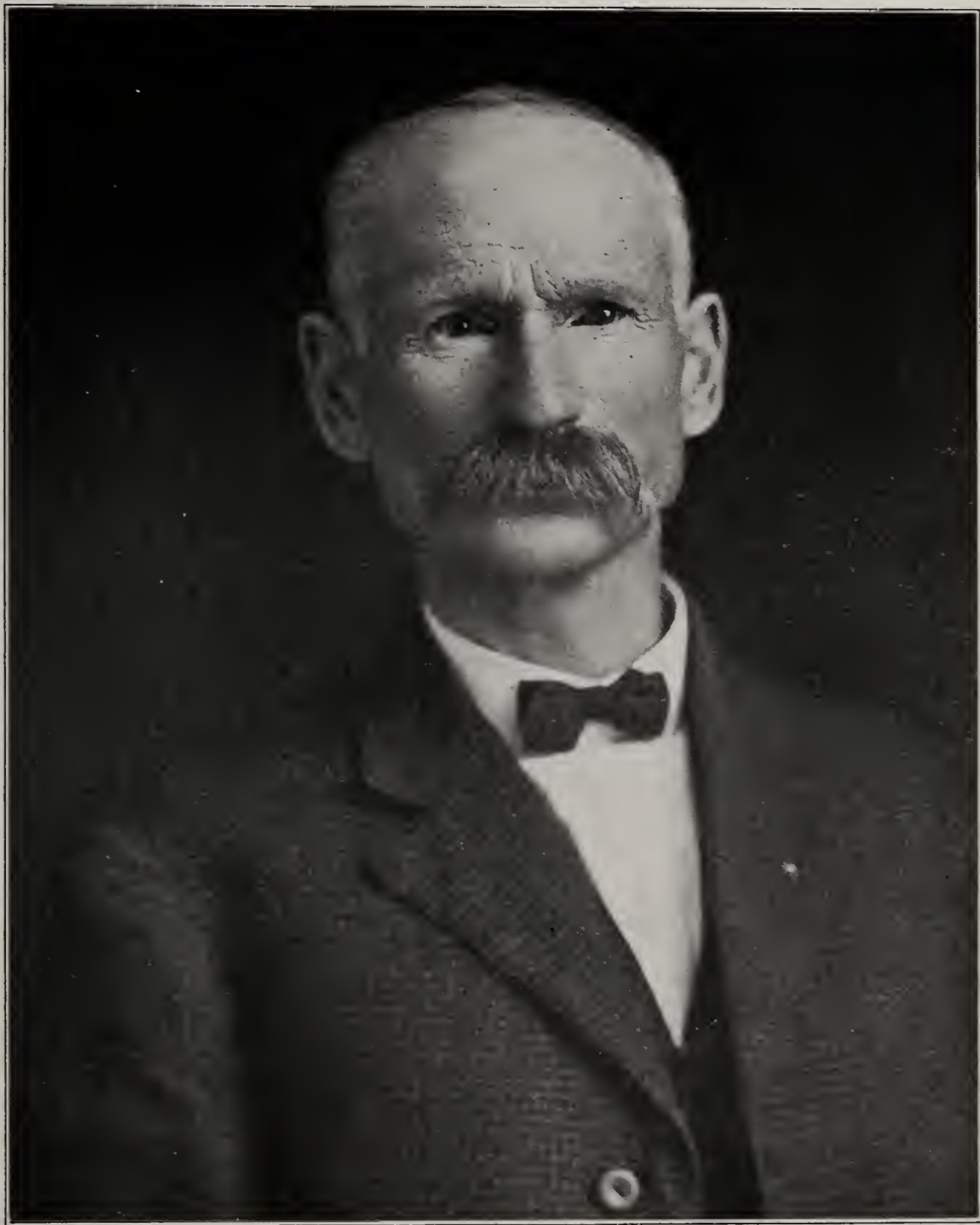
marriage, their ages ranging between one and ten years when she came to preside over their father's household. These children always regarded her as their own mother, for she was most watchful over their welfare and filled to the fullest extent the place of an own parent. She bore her share of pioneer hardships, making the trip from Michigan overland in a covered wagon, bravely facing all the difficulties and dangers of frontier experience. Her father was a minister of the Baptist church, and, being reared in that faith, Mrs. Dunning held membership in that denomination. Her life, however, was not narrowed by creed or dogma, but was the exemplification of that broader Christian spirit which reaches out in charity and helpfulness to all mankind.

Mr. Dunning, public-spirited in an eminent degree, has given freely of his time and means for the benefit of town and county, and his purse is ever open for good causes which have sought his financial assistance. Politically a whig, he supported that party from the time he cast his first presidential ballot for Henry Clay until the dissolution of the organization, when he became a stalwart republican. He has been a Mason for thirty-five years, his membership being in Taylor Lodge, No. 156, A. F. & A. M. Of a deeply religious nature, manifesting earnest interest in the cause of Christianity during his childhood days, he has been a lifelong member of the Baptist church and through his influence has left a deep impress for good upon the community as well as upon his own family, his children being reared in the fear and admonition of the Lord. His life has been a noble, upright one, characterized by unfaltering allegiance to high ideals, and his name will long be remembered and honored after he has passed away, not only because of his worth and the strength of his character, but also because of the fact that his several sons, learning the lessons of life at his knee, have carried his teachings beyond his immediate locality.

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#### FRANK N. LEWIS.

No compendium such as this work defines in its essential limitations would be considered complete were there failure to make prominent reference to Frank N. Lewis, who is now serving as mayor of the city, his administration being characterized by needed reforms, improvement and progress. Moreover he figures prominently in various business lines, especially in financial circles as the president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Bedford. He was born in Berlin, Wisconsin, February 17, 1854. His parents were Levi N. and Harley Ann (Resseguie) Lewis, who were natives of Pennsylvania. The family was an old one in that state, the grandfather's birth having there occurred. He was well known because of his political activity and enjoyed much more than a local reputation as a competent speaker. Unto him and his wife were born four children: Levi N.; Charles, now deceased; Ezra; and Orvis. The maternal grandfather of our subject was Lewis Resseguie, a native of Pennsylvania, but of French descent. He was a farmer by occupation and died in Wisconsin at an advanced age while his wife passed away in middle life. Their three children were: Alden, Ambrose and Harley Ann.



F. N. LEWIS





Levi N. Lewis studied law in early life and on leaving the east removed to Berlin, Wisconsin, becoming one of the first settlers of that locality. About 1859 he arrived in Taylor county, Iowa, and opened a law office in Bedford where for many years he engaged in active practice. His ability at the bar was pronounced, bringing him a liberal clientage and in other ways he proved himself a valuable citizen of the community. He platted considerable Bedford land which he made out in town lots, owning fifty acres of what is known as the Lewis addition, now constituting the finest residential district of the city. He was at one time mayor of Bedford and his allegiance to the public good was always pronounced, being manifest in many tangible ways. He died here at the age of sixty-three years while his wife passed away July 31, 1907, at the age of seventy-five. Both were members of the Presbyterian church and their many good qualities won for them the confidence and high regard of all with whom they were associated. Their family numbered five children, Frank N. being the only son and second in order of birth. The daughters are: Ella, the wife of William Faith of Bedford; Annie, the wife of Frank Igou of Kansas City, Missouri; Hattie, the deceased wife of A. B. Keplinger of Blockton, Iowa; and Una of Bedford.

Frank N. Lewis was only five years of age when his parents removed to Bedford so that almost his entire life has been passed in this city. His history is a familiar one to his fellow-townsmen who recognize in him one who has always been loyal to the best interests of the community. He acquired his education in the public schools, afterward learned the carpenter's trade and subsequently followed contracting and building for a number of years. On withdrawing from that field of labor he engaged in the retail lumber business for several years and subsequently took up the real-estate business. In all of these departments of labor he won substantial success and he still owns several brick business houses in Bedford, while both he and his wife are large land owners in Pottawatomie county, Kansas. On the 1st of May, 1908, Mr. Lewis organized the Farmers & Merchants Bank in connection with George W. Hartley, who became cashier and Lloyd N. Lewis who became assistant cashier. From the beginning Mr. Lewis has been president and his individual responsibilities amount to seventy-five thousand dollars. He has learned the lessons which each experience of life has brought and is very apt in understanding conditions and possibilities. His intelligent appreciation of opportunity has been one of the strong points in his career, winning him success which is most enviable.

On the 23d of December, 1879, Mr. Lewis wedded Miss Cora P. Hall, a native of Dubuque county, Iowa, and a daughter of Thomas D. and Experience Hall. They became the parents of seven children: Leavitt; Elvira, the wife of George Shriber of Arlington, Iowa; Helen M., the wife of O. W. Ormsby; Abbie, the wife of William Phillips, of Arlington; Cora, now Mrs. Lewis; Hattie M., the widow of Jesse Edwards, of Saratoga, Wyoming; and Minnie, the wife of Claud Garvey, of Kansas City, Kansas. The father of this family passed away August 17, 1908, at the remarkable old age of ninety years.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis has been blessed with four children: Adda May, Lloyd N., Mahlon D. and Gale M. Lewis, all at home. The parents and family are of the Presbyterian faith and are interested in the work of the church to which they belong. Mr. Lewis is also a member of Taylor Lodge,



No. 156, A. F. & A. M. He is recognized as one of the leaders of the republican party in this county, served as a member of the city council for five years and in 1908 was elected to the office of mayor. He is still the chief executive of the city and ably handles the reins of government. His administration is businesslike and his official service has been characterized by needed reforms and improvements. He has ever discharged his duties with marked ability for he is a most loyal public-spirited citizen. As a business man he has been conspicuous among his associates not only for his success but for his probity, fairness and honorable methods. In everything he has been eminently practical and this has been manifest not only in his business undertakings but also in social and private life.

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D. L. CARTER.

Agricultural pursuits have characterized the efforts of D. L. Carter throughout his entire business career, extending over a period of about twenty years. Born in Henderson county, Illinois, on the 4th of January, 1866, he is a son of James T. Carter, a successful farmer of Grove township, who is now living retired and whose sketch appears on another page of this volume.

D. L. Carter was a lad of thirteen years when he came with his parents to Taylor county, and his education, which had been begun in his native county, was here completed in the public schools and in Shenandoah College. Amid the activities of rural life he was reared to manhood, and on his father's farm laid the foundation for his future success—broad and practical experience—early learning lessons concerning the value of industry, energy and perseverance. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-five years of age, giving his father the benefit of his assistance in the operation of the home farm and in the conduct of his business affairs.

Mr. Carter then purchased a farm of two hundred and forty acres near Sharpsburg, which he developed and improved upon which he resided for eleven years. At the expiration of that period he sold that place and came to his present farm, which was originally a portion of his father's property. The farm, which consisted of three hundred and seventy-five acres located on section 28, Grove township, was under a good state of cultivation when it came into his possession, and he has since directed his energies towards its further development, so that it is today one of the best improved properties in the township. He has erected substantial buildings upon the place and introduced all of the modern conveniences and accessories known for facilitating farm labor, and everything about the place indicates that he has ever kept in close touch with the modern spirit of progress which is manifest in the agricultural world. He has made a close study of agriculture, so that he knows what crops are best adapted to the soil and climate and the proper cultivation of the same, and in connection with this also devotes considerable time and attention to stock feeding, fattening about one hundred head of cattle and two carloads of hogs annually. In this line of activity he has been very successful and both branches of his business, under his careful management, are proving gratifying sources of income.



On the 10th of March, 1891, in Conway, Mr. Carter was united in marriage to Miss Ettie Wilson, who was born and reared in Taylor county and is a sister of B. F. Wilson, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. Unto them has been born one daughter, Opal, who is the light and life of the household. The parents are prominent and faithful members of the Blue Grove Christian church, Mr. Carter serving as one of the elders, while both are active and helpful in the church and Sunday-school work. Politically he gives his allegiance to the prohibition party at national elections, recognizing the fact that the liquor traffic is one of the greatest evils against which the country today has to contend. At local elections, however, he votes an independent ticket, supporting the best men and measures, uninfluenced by any spirit of partisanship. Public-spirited in citizenship, active and successful in business, and honest and honorable in character, he has won a high place among the representative citizens of Taylor county, within whose borders he has continued to make his home since boyhood, and the fact that many of his warmest friends are those who know him best is an indication that his salient qualities are such as inspire the confidence, respect and good will of his fellowmen.

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#### ELI ULYSSES SIMPSON GRANT WILT.

Eli Wilt is classed among the most prosperous farmers and stock raisers of Taylor county, owning a well improved farm on section 11, Platte township, comprising eighty acres where he resides. He is a native of this township, born March 11, 1865, and a son of James M. and Catherine Ann (Hamilton) Wilt, the former born in Darke county, Ohio, and the latter in Preble county, that state. It was in the year 1855 that the father removed to Iowa, establishing his home in Clarke county, where for six years he engaged in breaking prairie with ox teams. On the 1st of September, 1861, he made his way to Taylor county and here purchased two hundred acres of wild and unimproved land in Platte township. This he cultivated and improved and in due time added to it a tract of two hundred acres, making in all four hundred acres. He erected a large residence, three barns, built fences, set out a grove and orchard and made many other improvements on the place. In addition to carrying on farming he also engaged quite extensively in raising sheep, at one time having a flock of seven hundred head of Cotswold sheep. He spent a very active and useful life and was known as one of the prominent pioneer settlers of Taylor county. His death here occurred August 15, 1899, when he had reached the age of sixty-seven years. His wife still survives and is very active at the age of seventy years, making her home in Lenox.

Eli Wilt, the third in order of birth in a family of six sons, was reared on the homestead farm in Platte township and during the period of his boyhood and youth was busily engaged in the various tasks assigned him by his father. He remained under the parental roof until he had reached mature years, when he started out upon an independent business venture, operating a threshing machine and corn sheller. His time was thus occupied for twenty years and during this time he operated in three counties, while for six years he was in Minnesota. He shelled over nine hundred thousand bushels of corn and a large amount of wheat and oats



and in this way became very widely known. Through this means he accumulated the money that enabled him to purchase his home farm of eighty acres on section 11, Platte township. He added to and remodeled the house, built a barn, sheds and other outbuildings, and set out a grove. He has a fine apple orchard, which yields a crop of almost one thousand bushels annually. He is engaged in general farming and, like his father, also gives much of his time to raising sheep, keeping pure blooded Cotswold sheep, and he raises cattle and horses as well, his stock being of the finest grades. He also buys and ships wool on quite an extensive scale. In the fall of 1909 he shipped a carload of Cotswold bucks to the Roberts ranch in Marion, Ohio, which were the finest sheep of that breed ever shipped from Lenox. In addition to his home farm he owns eighty acres of land in Ringgold county, Iowa, which was formerly a part of the farm belonging to his father, and he has a tract of walnut and oak timberland. He took an active part in the promotion of the Lenox and Kent telephone system and in many other ways has been interested in the progress and upbuilding of his home locality. Besides his property in this state he owns an interest in a gold mine at Kingman, Arizona, and has several shares in the German-American Coffee Company in Mexico.

Mr. Wilt has been married twice and by his first marriage has three daughters, Alma Ellen, Edna Marie and Lulu May. On the 8th of September, 1908, he married his present wife, who bore the maiden name of Etta Cox. She was born and reared in Pana, Illinois.

Politically Mr. Wilt has been a life-long republican. He served eight years in the office of township trustee but declined to fill the position longer. He has served as a delegate to county and state conventions and for many years has been identified with the school system. He is a member of the Calvary Methodist Episcopal church and is active in both church and Sunday-school work. He is public spirited in a marked degree, his aid and cooperation ever being found on the side of progress and improvement. Having spent his entire life in Taylor county, he is thoroughly familiar with its history and takes a just pride in what has been accomplished here in the last quarter of a century in the way of modern and substantial improvements. He has a wide circle of friends who esteem him for his integrity and worth.

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#### GEORGE R. McALPIN.

George R. McAlpin, one of the progressive and enterprising farmers and stock-raisers of Washington township, where he owns and operates a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, was born in Taylor county on the 4th of March, 1871. He comes from a family which has been represented in America since early colonial days, while his father, Robert McAlpin, was one of the pioneer settlers of this county, coming to this state from Indiana. He was prominent among agricultural circles in Taylor county and was called to his final rest in 1873. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Susan Harris, still survives and resides upon the old home farm upon which our subject was born. She has again mar-

ried, her second husband being O. B. Werts. Her father, William Harris, was also one of the pioneers of this county.

George R. McAlpin spent the period of his boyhood and youth upon the home farm and attended the Hawleyville school until twenty years of age. In the meantime, when not busy with his text-books, he assisted his stepfather in the work of the farm, and was thus employed until he attained his majority, when he started out in life on his own account, purchasing eighty acres of land in Mason township. Upon this he resided for one year, although the property was in his possession for about nine years. He later purchased forty acres which he afterward sold and then, in 1900, bought the farm upon which he now resides. It consists of one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land, in the midst of which Mr. McAlpin has erected a comfortable and attractive residence, while in the rear are substantial and commodious barns and outbuildings which stand as monuments to his enterprise and industry. Upon the place may be found all of the latest conveniences and accessories for the purpose of facilitating farm labor, and it ranks among the valuable and desirable farming properties of Washington township. He carries on general farming and also devotes much of his time to stock-raising, making a specialty of thoroughbred shorthorn cattle, and both branches of his business—raising grain and raising stock—are proving most gratifying sources of income. He has been successful in his enterprise and is classed among the prosperous and representative farmers of Washington township.

Mr. McAlpin was united in marriage in Dallas township on the 23d of March, 1897, to Miss Effie Kelso, a daughter of Benjamin and Mary Ellen Kelso, the former a very prominent farmer of Mason township. Mr. and Mrs. McAlpin have become the parents of two children, Virgil and Charles. Mr. McAlpin holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, while fraternally he is connected with the Odd Fellows, having been a member thereof for seventeen years. In politics he is a republican and is public-spirited in his citizenship, being deeply interested in all matters which have for their object the permanent and substantial upbuilding and growth of the community. Having passed his entire life in Taylor county, Mr. McAlpin has become widely known throughout the locality and his circle of friends is almost coextensive with his circle of acquaintances. His honorable and upright life has won for him the respect and regard of his fellowmen and he is recognized as a prominent and valued citizen of Washington township.

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#### LAMBERT ANDREW MAHAFFEY.

Lambert Andrew Mahaffey is one of the younger representatives of farming interests in Washington township and although he but recently purchased his farm of sixty-two acres, it already shows in its neat and attractive appearance his enterprising and progressive spirit. He is a native of this township, born October 25, 1883, a son of Frank and Minnie (Millhone) Mahaffey, who in 1877 removed from Ohio to eastern Iowa, where the father is engaged in farm-



ing. The Mahaffeys came to this country from Ireland, the grandfather of our subject locating in the Buckeye state upon his arrival in the new world. The maternal grandfather, Lambert Millhone, is now living retired in Clarinda, Page county, Iowa, at the age of seventy-five years.

Lambert A. Mahaffey acquired his education in the schools of Washington township, pursuing his studies therein to the age of seventeen years. During this period he had become acquainted with the work of the home farm through the assistance which he rendered to his father. He remained under the parental roof until his twentieth year, and then started out to make his own way in the business world. He is now the owner of a farm of sixty-two acres in Washington township, which is well improved land. In addition to general farming, Mr. Mahaffey also gives time and attention to breeding horses and in this connection has become one of the best known stock breeders in the state.

Mr. Mahaffey was married on the 20th of October, 1903, to Miss Nellie Fleming, a daughter of Frank and Mary (Garrison) Fleming. Mrs. Fleming is a daughter of J. M. Garrison, who came to Iowa from Illinois. Mr. Fleming is engaged in farming in Washington township and is numbered among Taylor county's substantial and highly respected citizens. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Mahaffey has been blessed with a son and daughter, Frank and Alice. Mr. Mahaffey is identified with the Methodist Episcopal church at Gravity, while his fraternal relations connect him with the Modern Woodmen of America. Having spent his entire life in Taylor county, he is well known and popular with a large circle of friends and acquaintances, while his business affairs have also brought him in contact with the county's best citizens. Mr. Mahaffey deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, for he started out in life empty-handed and it has been through his own efforts that he has attained his present success.

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#### JOHN D. GOBLE.

John D. Goble, who is engaged in the dairy business in Clearfield, Iowa, is one of the valiant men, now so rapidly diminishing, who are a constant inspiration to the patriotic youth about them. He was born in Columbus, Indiana, July 11, 1842. His father, Stephen Goble, was a native of Kentucky but went to Indiana, where he married and continued to reside until his death. His wife, who was also of Kentucky nativity and was Miss Elizabeth Nowen before her marriage, took her family to Washington county, Iowa, after the death of her husband, there reared them and lived until her life also was brought to its close. Of the ten children born to her and her husband three now survive: John D., of this review; and Mrs. E. A. Ferguson and Mrs. J. Maxwell, who reside at Crawfordsville, Washington county, Iowa.

In Washington county John D. Goble spent his boyhood, and on the 11th of August, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company C, Eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. His first engagement was the battle of Shiloh, in which he was captured, and for fifty-two days confined within prison walls. He then took part in the forty-two day siege of Vicksburg, in the siege of Jackson, Mississippi,



which lasted three days, and in the siege of Spanish Fort, which held out for thirteen days. These have been accorded the rank of important engagements in the conflict, and it has ever been a source of gratification to Mr. Goble to think that he contributed even his little share to the final victory of the Union cause. But in the five years of his service he also participated in minor skirmishes too numerous to mention and was in a hospital for three months after the battle at Jackson, Mississippi, in which he was wounded in his left forearm. In recognition of his bravery he was promoted to the rank of corporal, with which title he was mustered out of the army at Davenport, May 9, 1866. When his country no longer needed his services he returned to Washington county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming. In 1869 he removed to Missouri, where he lived for seven years and then settled in Ringgold county, Iowa. There he owned one hundred and twenty acres of land, on which he made his home until 1894, when he sold his property and came to Clearfield, and embarked in the dairy business. He keeps a number of cows and has secured a large patronage from the citizens of the town.

In Washington county, Iowa, December 10, 1868, Mr. Goble married Miss Lucinda H. Johnson, who was born in Crawfordsville, Iowa. Their union has been blessed with two children: Wilbert I., who died at the age of twenty-seven; and Maud, who is the wife of D. Beemer, a farmer of Ringgold county, Iowa.

The family are members of the United Brethren church, and by its teachings order their lives. Politically Mr. Goble is a republican, having cast his first presidential ballot for Lincoln when he was the party's candidate for the second time. The polls were held upon the battlefield and the issues at stake were brought home to the voters with a power not seen today, so no question as to his allegiance to the party upon whose support depended the salvation of the Union has never entered his mind since. Still of an impressionable age when he entered the army the memories of those days of conflict are among the most vivid which the years have left, and the experiences are eagerly rehearsed on the occasion of each meeting of the post of the Grand Army that exists in Clearfield, when the men recall how they shared one another's supplies or other incidents which touch the heart even today.

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### JACOB GARRETT.

Jacob Garrett is an enterprising and progressive farmer of Washington township, owning and operating eighty acres of land. He was born in Muskingum, Ohio, on the 8th of December, 1835, his parents being Luke and Elizabeth (Collins) Garrett. In the family of Jacob Garrett, the paternal grandfather of our subject, there were six children, namely: Luke, Mary, Mahala, Jacob, Washington and LeRoy. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Collins, the maternal grandparents of Mr. Garrett, of this review, reared a family of eight children, as follows: Elizabeth, Samuel, George, Gibson, Catherine, Lydia, Miranda and Euphemia. Unto Luke and Elizabeth (Collins) Garrett were born five children: Jacob, Thomas, Margaret, Robert and George.



The year 1866 witnessed the arrival of Jacob Garrett in this state and he has made his home in Taylor county for about thirty-eight years. The farm of eighty acres in Washington township on which he now lives has been his place of residence for about seventeen years, and in its cultivation and development he has won a gratifying measure of success. The many substantial improvements on the property indicate the progress that has been made in agricultural lines, and the well tilled fields annually yield golden harvests as a reward for the care and labor which is bestowed upon them.

In November, 1866, Mr. Garrett was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Ann Coin, a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Jackson) Coin and a granddaughter of Hugh Coin. She has five brothers, namely: Jack, Hugh, William, George and Robert. Mr. and Mrs. Garrett are the parents of ten children: John, William, Clyde, Frank, Samuel, Charles, George, Jane, Rachel and Carrie.

On attaining his majority Mr. Garrett joined the ranks of the democracy but later became a socialist and is still a stalwart adherent of that party, believing that its principles, if carried into practice, would best conserve the general welfare.

Coming to the state at an early period in its development, he has not only witnessed the changes which have transformed this district from a wild prairie region into a prosperous and thriving agricultural center, but has borne his full share in bringing these conditions about. He has now passed the seventy-third milestone on life's journey and receives the veneration and respect which should ever be accorded one who has traveled thus far on this earthly pilgrimage and whose career has at all times been upright and honorable.

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#### COLONEL MARCELLUS MILLER.

Colonel Marcellus Miller is now conducting a profitable business in Bedford as the proprietor of the Bedford Granite & Marble Works. There are many interesting and some unusual chapters in his life record. He has known extended military service as a member of the regular army and also as a volunteer soldier of the Spanish-American war. He was born in Petersburg, Virginia, September 30, 1849, his parents being Josiah C. and Adaline (Freeman) Miller, both of whom were natives of Dinwiddie county, Virginia. The former was a son of Benjamin Miller, a native of Norfolk county, Virginia, who followed farming as a life work and died at the age of forty-five years. He had married a Miss Millar, and Josiah C. Miller was their only child. Having lost his first wife, however, Benjamin Miller married again and had several children by the second union. The maternal grandfather of our subject was also a native of Virginia and was a potter by trade. He married Miss Perkins, who died in early womanhood, while his death occurred when he was forty-five years of age. Their only daughter was Mrs. Adaline (Freeman) Miller.

Josiah C. Miller was born on the farm in Norfolk county and there remained until fourteen years of age, when he went to Petersburg and learned the cabinet maker's trade. He was employed in the pattern making shops of the South Side Railroad there and devoted his entire life to mechanical pursuits. He



belonged to the Home Guards in Petersburg and died there in 1897, when seventy-two years of age. He had been reared in a Methodist family but later joined the Presbyterian church. For some years he survived his wife, who passed away in 1854. They had but two children, the daughter being Martha Elizabeth, called Patty by her family, now the wife of Irvin P. Hoag, of Petersburg, Virginia.

Colonel Marcellus Miller lived in Petersburg until he attained his majority and acquired his education in the academy and institute there. He afterward went to Baltimore and joined the United States army, serving for five years in Battery H, Third United States Artillery, General Humphrey being at that time his lieutenant. Mr. Miller was a sergeant at the time of his discharge. On the expiration of his term of enlistment he returned to his Virginia home, where he remained for a time, and in 1875 came to Iowa, living at Des Moines with an uncle, Alexander Miller, until he removed to Leon, Iowa. He there learned the marble cutter's trade, after which he came to Bedford in August, 1878, and opened marble works, which he has since conducted. He has built up an extensive and gratifying business in this line because of his ability, excellent workmanship, reasonable prices and earnest effort to please his patrons. His work is artistic, many evidences of his skill are seen in the cemeteries in this and surrounding cities.

Mr. Miller, however, has not confined his attention entirely to his business affairs, for he has cooperated in many movements for the general good, and in 1889 was elected county auditor on the democratic ticket. He served for five years in that position in a most creditable and acceptable manner, and he has also served for three years as a member of the city council, exercising his official prerogatives in support of all movements for the general good. His interest in military affairs has never abated and on the 26th of December, 1886, he enlisted in Company I of the Fifth Iowa National Guard, was elected first lieutenant the following year, captain in 1889 and lieutenant colonel in March, 1898. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American war he was mustered into service at Des Moines, the Old Third becoming the Fifty-first Iowa Volunteer Regiment in May. He continued with that command until mustered out November 2, 1889, during which time he saw service in the Orient. The regiment sailed from San Francisco to the Phillippines, being ninety-five days on shipboard, as passengers, on the old Pennsylvania. He was lieutenant-colonel of his regiment and was in command in the field much of the time, until June 16, 1899. On their return the regiment was mustered out at San Francisco, and when he again reached home Colonel Miller resumed business in the marble shops at Bedford and has since concentrated his energies upon his commercial interests.

On the 10th of June, 1879, was celebrated the marriage of Colonel Miller and Miss Emma Gillham, of Leon, Iowa, a daughter of Charles A. and Martha M. (Hall) Gillham. Mrs. Miller was born in Leon, Iowa, her parents having become pioneer settlers of this state. Her father was a native of Illinois and her mother of North Carolina, but they were married in Jefferson county, Iowa, after which they removed to Taylor county. Here her father died in 1883, from disease contracted in the Civil war, but her mother is still living in Leon. In their family were three sons and two daughters: Addie, deceased; Mrs. Miller;



Mrs. Olive Hoover; Frank; and Lew. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Miller was a native of Georgia and a farmer by occupation, following that pursuit until his death, which occurred when he was well advanced in years. His wife was Scotch lineage. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Miller was a native of North Carolina and was of Scotch descent. He married a Miss Hill and their daughter, Martha M., who became Mrs. Gillham, was an only child. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Miller have been born two sons and five daughters. Worth, the eldest, is conducting a newspaper in Minatare, Nebraska. He wedded Anna May Erb, by whom he has a daughter, Susan I. Eva was married June 15, 1909, to J. G. Wehn, of Bridgeport, Nebraska. Grey is a resident of Goldfield, Iowa. Rebecca, Dorothy, Olive and Pattie are all at home.

Colonel and Mrs. Miller are members of the Presbyterian church and he is affiliated with Taylor Lodge, No. 156, F. & A. M.; Triangle Chapter, No. 68, R. A. M.; Bethany Commandery, K. T., of Creston, Iowa; and Islam Temple of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at San Francisco. He also belongs to Bedford Lodge, No. 101, K. P., and to the Modern Woodmen of America. He is now pleasantly situated in life, having his home and other city property in Bedford. His has been a life of great activity and of wide usefulness in relation to his country and in business affairs in the community where he makes his home. His genial worth is widely acknowledged and has won him the unqualified esteem and respect of all with whom he has come in contact.

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#### HARRY ALLEN.

The rich prairie land of Taylor county offers excellent inducements to the agriculturist, who finds that his labors are attended with substantial results, for his energy and industry are guided by discriminating judgment. Among those who are classed with the prosperous farmers and stock raisers of the community is Harry Allen, living on section 23, Polk township, where he is now cultivating his farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He took up his abode here in March, 1890, and in the intervening years his labors have wrought a commendable change in the appearance of the place and in the productiveness of the fields.

Mr. Allen is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Knox county, on the 30th of September, 1851. There he was reared in the usual manner of farm lads of the period, working in the fields through the summer months and attending the public schools in winter. He remained with his father until about thirty years of age, aiding him in carrying on the farm. He was married in that county and then began farming on his own account, continuing a resident of Knox county, Illinois, until 1890, when he sold his property there and removed westward, to Iowa. On reaching Taylor county he took up his abode upon a tract of land on section 23, Polk township, which he had purchased in January of that year. Looking over his place he noted the improvements which should be made, recognized the opportunities for further development and has carried on the work of general advancement with continued success to the present time. He has repaired the house, built a barn and other outbuildings, has fenced the



MR. AND MRS. HARRY ALLEN





place and made the farm an excellent property. He first bought one hundred and twenty acres of land, but he has since increased his possessions by an additional purchase of forty acres adjoining. He raises and feeds stock, fattening a large number of hogs each year and all of the stock he handles is of high grade. He has an imported Clydesdale stallion for breeding purposes and has bred many of the best horses in this county. He is an excellent judge of stock and this has constituted an important feature in his business success. He also raises good crops each year, for the system of rotation keeps his land in good condition, while the soil is naturally rich and productive.

While still a resident of Knox county, Illinois, Mr. Allen was married on the 6th of February, 1879, to Miss Tillie Hawkins, who was born and reared in Knox county. In 1896 he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, with whom he had traveled life's journey happily for about seventeen years. She passed away on the 7th of January, leaving five children: Pearl, who was married in Creston, Iowa, on the 18th of May, 1904, to Miss America Gaddis, a native of Taylor county, and is now associated with his father in carrying on the home farm; Ray, who is in Knox county, Illinois; Cora, the wife of Fred Gaddis, a farmer of Ross township, Taylor county; Lloyd, who is in Illinois; and Dean, who is with his grandparents in Ross township, they having reared him from his infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Allen also lost four children in early childhood.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Allen has been a stalwart democrat where state and national issues are involved but casts an independent local ballot. The honors and emoluments of office have had no attraction for him as he has ever preferred to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs. The extent and importance of his activities have brought him a wide acquaintance in Hopkins, Missouri, in Bedford, Iowa, and throughout this portion of the country. He is recognized and commended for his spirit of enterprise, diligence and keen discernment, and his sterling worth has won for him the confidence and high regard of those with whom business and social relations have brought him in contact.

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### W. J. W. TOWNSEND.

Unceasing activity and strong purpose have been the salient features in the business life of W. J. W. Townsend, of Blockton. He has lived in Iowa since 1853 and in Taylor county since 1874 and thus has been a witness of much of the growth and development of this portion of the state. He has also cooperated in the work of general progress and improvement and his business interests have been of a character that have contributed to general progress as well as to individual success.

A native of Virginia, Mr. Townsend was born in Highland county on the 20th of March, 1852. His father, Stuart Townsend, was likewise a native of the Old Dominion, where he was reared and married. On leaving the south, in 1853, he brought his family to Iowa, settling first in Monroe county and afterward in Appanoose county, whence, in 1873, he removed to Taylor county,



casting in his lot among the pioneer residents of this part of the state. He lived first in Gay township and subsequently in Jefferson township and with undaunted spirit endured the hardships and difficulties of pioneer life in his effort to establish a home upon the frontier.

W. J. W. Townsend was but one year old at the time of the removal of the family to this state. He was reared to manhood in Monroe and Appanoose counties and later engaged in clerking in Blockton and also in Platteville. In 1885 he opened a general store in Platteville and subsequently at Athelstan. After conducting both for a time he sold out at Platteville and continued in business at Athelstan until September 15, 1909, when he sold out. He has recently established a general store in Blockton where he is now carrying on business. He also owns two farms in Jefferson township and derives therefrom a substantial rental to supplement the income which he secures from his mercantile interests.

Mr. Townsend was married in Gay township, this county, in 1874 to Miss Rosettie E. Brott, who was born and reared in Monroe county, Iowa. There are five children of this marriage. The eldest is Dr. Owen S. Townsend who for a number of years has engaged in the practice of medicine in Nebraska. He was graduated from Rush Medical College when twenty-one years of age and afterward spent one year in travel abroad, sailing from San Francisco and passing through many countries, after which he landed at New York. Amy N., at home, was engaged in teaching four years in the public schools, the last two years being spent in the graded schools of Blockton. Guy W., who has attained considerable notoriety as a catcher in the league ball teams, will graduate from the Creighton Medical College, at Omaha, Nebraska, in May, 1910, at which time he will have completed a four years' course and won his M. D. degree. Ivan R. and Florence M. are attending school in Blockton. Mrs. Townsend is an active and devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, Mr. Townsend is connected with the Athelstan Lodge, I. O. O. F. In politics he has been a lifelong republican, voting over thirty times in Jefferson township, never failing to be present at every election. He served as postmaster at Platteville for eleven years and has been notary public for twenty-two years. In the duties of citizenship he is never remiss but seeks advancement along lines of general improvement, and as the years go by he does his full share for the upbuilding of his community. He is well known in Bedford, Blockton and the eastern part of the county and has a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance.

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#### CHARLES H. LEACH.

Closely adhering to systematic rules in carrying on his farming and stock-raising interests, Charles H. Leach is numbered among the more prosperous men in this line in Taylor county. He owns one of the fine farms of Platte township, his place embracing two hundred and fifty-six acres on section 6. He was born on a farm near Burlington, in Racine county, Wisconsin, January 18, 1873, a son of John and Agnes (McDonald) Leach, the former a native of England, whence he came as a child to America with his parents. They settled in Racine



county and there the son was reared and after reaching mature years he was married to Miss Agnes McDonald, who was born in Ireland. The father now owns a valuable farm of three hundred and forty-seven acres near Burlington and is still actively engaged in farming pursuits at the age of sixty-six years. Their family numbers five sons and a daughter, all of whom are married and in homes of their own except two of the sons, who are still with their parents.

Charles H. Leach, the eldest in his father's family was reared in the place of his nativity and was given good school advantages, completing the high-school course. He remained with his father until he reached years of maturity and in 1895, when about twenty-two years of age, he came to Taylor county, where lived some friends. For four years he worked for the neighboring farmers by the month and on the 3d of January, 1900, established a home of his own by his marriage to Miss Mame Stamets, a daughter of John Stamets, one of the early settlers and prosperous farmers of Grove township, where the daughter was reared.

In the meantime Mr. Leach had prepared a home for his bride by the purchase of eighty acres of land in Grove township. On this place they began their domestic life and Mr. Leach further improved the farm and also added an adjoining tract of forty acres. He made that his place of residence until the spring of 1909, when he removed to his present farm, which he had purchased the previous year. This farm is located on section 6, Platte township, within a half mile of Lenox. He has erected a two-story cement block house, which is the only one of its kind in the township. He has also built two barns, corn cribs and two windmills, whereby an ample supply of water is furnished for the stock as well as for household purposes. Altogether his is one of the most pleasantly located and best improved farm properties in this section of the state, and since coming into his possession, Mr. Leach has greatly enhanced its value owing to the substantial improvements he has made. He is engaged in general farming and stock-raising, feeding a carload of cattle and two carloads of hogs annually. He is systematic and methodical in carrying on his work and while adding to his individual success he is also doing much for the interests of the community at large.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Leach has been blessed with a little daughter, Myrtle Irene. Politically Mr. Leach is independent. Both he and his wife are Presbyterians in their religious belief, being members of the Prairie Chapel. Mr. Leach carries on his business most vigorously and persistently and a glance at his farm is in itself a lesson of thrift, industry and perseverance.

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### LEONARD CUMMINGS.

Leonard Cummings, one of the few remaining veterans of the Civil war, is now living in honorable retirement in a comfortable home in Blockton, but he was formerly identified with the farming interests of Gay township and still owns one hundred and twenty acres of land there, which is being operated by his son. Mr. Cummings, of this review, was born in Jefferson county, New York,



August 15, 1842, a son of Alanson B. and Sophronia (Packard) Cummings, who were likewise born in the Empire State, the former in Oneida county. The father was a cooper by trade and followed that pursuit throughout his active business career, and he also engaged in farming in the east.

Leonard Cummings was accorded good common school advantages and worked with his father on the farm during the period of his boyhood and youth. He was but twenty years of age, when his patriotic spirit being aroused by the event of the Civil war, he offered his services to the government, enlisting as a member of Company E, Ninety-fourth New York Volunteer Infantry, in February, 1862. His company became a part of the Army of the Potomac and being ordered south. Mr. Cummings participated with his regiment in some of the most important battles fought on southern fields. He was in the second battle of Bull Run, South Mountain and Antietam, where he was slightly wounded. Later he participated in the battle at Fredericksburg, where he was severely wounded in the right hip and arm by a shell. This wound incapacitating him for further service on the field, he was sent to the Harwood hospital at Washington, D. C., but was later transferred to St. Mary's hospital in Rochester, New York. He was honorably discharged on the 23d of February, 1865.

Returning home after he was released from the hospital he was unable to do any manual labor for three years. Later, as his strength returned, he worked with his father in the cooper shop. At length, in 1869, he journeyed westward to Woodhull, Illinois, where he followed the cooper's trade for twenty years. In the meantime having learned favorable reports concerning farming interests in the west, accordingly, in 1889, he came to Taylor county and purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Gay township. Taking up his abode thereon, he at once set himself to the task of improving the place. He built to and remodeled the house, built fences, erected outbuildings and in due course of time had his fields under a high state of cultivation, from which he annually gathered good crops. He farmed that place for nineteen years and at the end of that time, feeling that his capital was sufficient to enable him to take more comfort out of life, in 1908 he purchased a nice residence in Blockton and there took up his abode. He rents his land to his son and is now living retired, deriving from his farm a rental that provides him with a good living.

It was prior to his enlistment in the Civil war that Mr. Cummings was first married. He was but nineteen years of age when in 1861 he wedded Miss Mary Jane Kelley, who was a native of New York. There is one son of that marriage, Leonard, Jr., who now resides in Oklahoma. He lost his wife ere his removal to the west and it was while living in Illinois, in 1872, that he was married again, his second union being with Emily Elnora Johnson, a native of Mercer county, that state. There is one son born of that marriage, Alanson B., who is married and conducts the home farm. He has one child, Ary Elton Cummings.

Mr. Cummings has always given stanch support to the republican party but he has never been an aspirant for public office, for he is of rather a retiring nature. He is a member of the G. A. R. post at Woodhull, Illinois. He has seen the county developed into one of the rich agricultural centers of southwestern Iowa and has borne his full share in bringing this work about. He has led a busy, useful and active life, and although he came to the west with no capital



he has through his energy, determination and perseverance accumulated a good farming property from which he now derives a good income, so that he can spend his declining years in comfort and ease.

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### REV. ELY BALDIN OSBORN.

Among those citizens of Taylor county who are devoting their lives to the uplifting of humanity through their efforts as preachers of the gospel is the Rev. Ely Baldin Osborn, who has been the popular and efficient pastor of the Baptist church at New Market since 1903. Born in Youngstown, Ohio, in March, 1855, he is a son of Ely Baldin and Katherine (Baily) Osborn, the former one of a family of five children born to Abraham Osborn and his wife. The others were Jacob, Comfort, William and Traffina. Representatives of the name were absolutely the first settlers of Page county and the family has figured prominently in its development and improvement since early pioneer days. The mother, who after the death of her first husband, was again married, her second union being with Patrick Moore, still survives at the venerable age of eighty-five years and makes her home with her son Ely B. Our subject had three brothers, namely: George Washington, who was killed in the Civil war; Thomas Jefferson, who also served in the war of the Rebellion; and David Willard.

Rev. Osborn is indebted to the public-school system for his educational advantages, passing through consecutive grades until his graduation from high school in 1873. He then accompanied his parents on their removal to Monroe county, Iowa, where they settled upon a farm which his father owned near Blakesburg, and there the intervening years were passed until 1877, during which time he had been ordained to the ministry at Blakesburg. He was first assigned to College Springs, Page county, and he ministered to that charge until 1882, in which year he removed to Hopkins, Missouri, where he remained for one year. He then received a call to Wayne county, Iowa, which he accepted and where he continued as pastor for four years. In 1887 he went to Clearfield, where he resided for nine years, and during this period he filled the pulpit of the Baptist church for six years. Throughout his connection with the ministry he has been a very successful pastor, faithful and efficient in the performance of the duties of his chosen life work, and something of his personal popularity is indicated by the fact that after presiding over the charge at Clearfield, New Market and also Hopkins, Missouri, he was recalled by each church and is now serving for the second time as pastor at New Market. He was naturally well qualified for his chosen calling and has at all times remained a student of religious problems and has been a fearless and independent thinker. With the passing of the years his sphere of usefulness and activity has broadened and he has endeared himself more and more to the people with whom he has come in contact, while his brethren in the clergy have indicated their regard and esteem for him in his appointment as moderator of the Baptist Association, which office he has filled for four years.



It was on the 12th of April, 1874, that Rev. Osborn was united in marriage in Monroe county, Iowa, to Miss Margaret Stocker, a daughter of Aaron and Mary Elizabeth Stocker, prominent farming people of that county, who were the parents of twenty-one children. The home of Rev. and Mrs. Osborn has been blessed with eight children, seven of whom survive: Leo; Arthur; Walter; Glenn, who passed away and is buried at Davison Cemetery; Lena; Milly; Effie; and Flossie. Of this number Walter and Flossie are graduates of the high school.

Rev. Osborn gives his support at the polls to the republican party, for, after a close and thorough study of its platform, he was convinced that its principles are best adapted to conserve the general good. He is a public-spirited citizen, at all times doing all in his power to promote the welfare of the community, while his efforts toward the checking of vice have been far-reaching in their effects. Modest and unassuming in manner, he nevertheless exerts a strong influence over those who come in contact with him, and his teachings have proved the guiding influence in the lives of many who have listened to his wise counsel and advice.

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#### J. N. FREELAND.

Among the representatives of the business life of Blockton none are more deserving of mention in this volume than J. N. Freeland, who is not only progressive in his business affairs but is ever ready to help in any movement for the progress and advancement of his home city. Mr. Freeland was born in Paris, Edgar county, Illinois, January 6, 1861, his parents being F. A. and Louisa (Kirby) Freeland, both of whom were born in Indiana. The father went to Edgar county, Illinois, where for some time he was engaged in farming but in 1864 he removed to Wayne county, Iowa, and purchased a farm, which he operated three years. He later took up his abode in Corydon, where his death occurred.

J. N. Freeland was a little lad of but three years at the time of the parents' removal from his native state, Illinois, to Wayne county, Iowa, so that he was practically reared in the latter place. He acquired his education in the schools of Allerton, where he qualified for teaching, in which he engaged four years. He then clerked in a store in Allerton two years and subsequently went to Fort Dodge, Iowa, where he was similarly engaged two years. He then went to Sac City, where he managed a store for the Fort Dodge Dry Goods Company. From the latter city he went to Clearfield and spent four years in the conduct of a similar enterprise, while on the expiration of that period he took up his abode in Mt. Ayr. In 1896 he came to Blockton and opened up a general merchandise establishment and his business has grown until he now occupies a double store room in the conduct of his enterprise. He carries a large and well selected line of goods and his courteous treatment of patrons and reasonable prices have enabled him to build up his business until today it ranks among the leading enterprises of this character in this section of Taylor county. Mr. Freeland formerly engaged in real-estate operations, buying and selling farm lands and in this undertaking he met with success. He is quick, positive, exacting and comprehensive of every detail of affairs



that comes within the scope of his action and this has been one of the chief features in his splendid success.

Mr. Freeland was married in Hancock county, Illinois, February 11, 1886, the lady of his choice being Miss Ella M. Peacock, who was there born and reared. She received liberal educational advantages and for several years prior to her marriage engaged in teaching. By her marriage she has become the mother of one son, A. V. Freeland, who is a well educated young man, having completed his studies in Simpson College, at Indianola, Iowa, and he is now a partner of his father in business.

Mr. Freeland's study of the political issues of the day has led him to give his support to the republican party and he has served as a member of the town council several years. As an indication of his high standing in the community and of the high appreciation which his fellowmen have for him, it may here be stated that in 1908 Mr. Freeland received numerous letters from people throughout Taylor county urging him to become a candidate for representative to the legislature, this being one case of the office seeking the man and not the man seeking the office. Although Mr. Freeland appreciated this high compliment which was paid him, he felt that his business interests would not permit of him entering public life, so he declined to become a candidate.

Both he and his wife are devoted and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Freeland has been superintendent of the Sunday school for the past thirteen years, while Mrs. Freeland is also an active worker and a teacher in that organization. Every change Mr. Freeland has made in his business life shows that he has lived for a purpose. His aim and endeavor has been to make today find him farther advanced in his desires than yesterday and has looked forward to tomorrow to add to his attainments. He has been alive to the opportunities as they have presented and his progression has been constant until today he stands prominently among the business men of this section of the county, while his social qualities have also gained him a host of friends.

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#### GEORGE R. BRAND.

A well developed farm of one hundred and sixty acres, located in Washington township, has been in possession of George R. Brand the past three years, while for two years prior to that time he cultivated this property as a renter. He is a native of the neighboring state of Illinois, his birth having occurred in McDonough county, January 2, 1853. His father, A. J. Brand, was a son of George Brand, of Virginia, and the former left his home in the south and made his way to Illinois, where he still resides. His wife who bore the maiden name of Eveline Russell, was likewise a native of Virginia, and a daughter of Robert Russell of that state.

George R. Brand was trained to habits of industry and perseverance during the period of his boyhood and youth, his time being largely taken up with the duties of the home farm during the summer seasons, while in the winter months he gave his time to the acquirement of an education in the district schools, which



he attended to his seventeenth year. However, after putting aside his text-books, he remained on the home farm till he had reached the age of twenty-six years and then started upon an independent business venture by operating rented land in Illinois for two years. He had heard much concerning the opportunities in Iowa and at the end of that period made his way to Page county, where he rented a farm and operated the same four years. He then found himself in possession of a sum of money that justified his purchase of property, and accordingly made his way to Atchison county, Missouri, and invested in eighty acres, to which he later added an additional tract of eighty acres. After a time he disposed of that property to advantage and returning to Taylor county, bought two hundred and eighty acres in Washington township, but he disposed of one hundred and twenty acres of this to his son Samuel and now retains possession of one hundred and sixty acres. He has made many needed improvements on the place, including a substantial barn and outbuildings to shelter his stock, while he also improved the house and now has a modern and up-to-date country residence, supplied with every convenience to add to the comfort of the family. While carrying on general farming pursuits, Mr. Brand also raises high grades of stock and through this means has added much to his financial income.

Mr. Brand was married in 1880 to Miss Rose Crabb and by that union four children were born, Samuel, Ezra, Lena and Rose, but the last named is now deceased, while the mother has also departed this life. Mr. Brand was married again in 1905, his second union being with Dell Stephens, a daughter of F. M. Stephens. By this marriage there is one daughter, Bessie.

Mr. Brand through his reading keeps in close touch with the current issues of the day but does not take an active part in public affairs. Devoted to his home and his family, he finds his greatest enjoyment at his own fireside, where his wife and intimate friends know him to be a delightful companion. Each change he has made in his business life has given him a wider outlook and broader scope for the exercise of his energy, ambition and industry, and his fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres is the visible evidence of the success he has won.

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#### C. S. JONES.

C. S. Jones, who is familiarly called Tip by a large circle of friends, a fact which indicates the affections and good will with which he is regarded by his fellowmen, was born in Johnson county, Iowa, on the 1st of January, 1858, and is a son of Elias U. and Ruth (Singleton) Jones, natives of Virginia and West Virginia respectively. The father went to Kentucky in early manhood, from which place he removed to Illinois and later came to Iowa, taking up his abode first in Scott county and later in Johnson county. In 1876 he came to Taylor county and was numbered among the early settlers of this district. Here he opened up a farm upon which he continued to reside until his demise, which occurred in December, 1907, when he lacked but seven days of having reached the advanced age of eighty-two years. His widow still survives and makes her home upon that farm, which is a well improved and valuable property.



On his father's farm in Johnson county, C. S. Jones spent the first eighteen years of his life, and in the common schools of that county acquired his education. In 1876, he came with his parents to Taylor county and remained with his father, giving him the benefit of his assistance in the operation of the home farm, until he attained man's estate, when he took up agricultural pursuits on his own account, wisely choosing as a life work the occupation to which he had been reared. On the 8th of April, 1883, he was united in marriage to Kate Rutledge, a daughter of William Rutledge, of whom extended mention is made on another page of this volume. Mrs. Jones was born in Ohio, where she was reared and educated, attending the common schools of Conway, and later was engaged in teaching school in that state.

After his marriage Mr. Jones operated the Rutledge farm for about six years, and then purchased his present farm, upon which he located in 1888. It consists of one hundred and twenty acres located on section 2, Marshall township, and under his care has been brought to a good state of cultivation. He has erected a neat and attractive house and substantial barns and outbuildings, which stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. He has also set out a good grove and orchard, and the farm is now one of the well improved properties of the township. He carries on general farming and also engages in the raising and feeding of stock, both branches of his business proving sources of gratifying remuneration.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Jones was blessed with five children, who are as follows: Dessie, a graduate of Simpson College, at Indianola, Iowa, who is a teacher in the primary department of the Sharpsburg school; Clara, a teacher of music who also attended Simpson College; and Ruth, Wilma and John, students in the public schools. The parents and three daughters are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Sharpsburg Mr. Jones being a class teacher and active Sunday-school worker. He holds membership in the Modern Woodmen camp of Johnson county, while politically he gives his allegiance to the republican party in all matters involving national issues. In local affairs, however, he votes an independent ticket, supporting the men and measures which he deems will best conserve public welfare, regardless of party ties. He has been identified with the schools of the county for some time, having served as a director of the board for a number of years and aided in the erection of two school buildings. Of a genial and kindly disposition, he is popular among a large circle of warm friends who know him as a man of strict integrity and honorable principles. His close application to his business, his unremitting diligence and his ability in controlling agricultural interests have been elements in a success which is as honorable as it is gratifying.

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#### THOMAS BENTON KEPLINGER, M. D.

Dr. Thomas Benton Keplinger, a physician and surgeon of Conway, who is successfully practicing, his ability bringing to him ready recognition from those who need professional services of this character, has been a resident of Taylor county from his boyhood days. His life record is therefore as an open



book to the people of this community and it is one which merits for him the esteem in which he is uniformly held. Dr. Keplinger was born in Kosciusko county, Indiana, on the 26th of July, 1861. He came to Taylor county with his father in 1865 and supplemented his early educational privileges by study in Amity College and in the state university, having graduated from the latter institution with the class of 1881. He received the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1885 and that of Master of Arts in 1888. In the meantime he engaged in teaching in Nebraska for a few years, but in 1892, he returned to the Iowa university, matriculating in the medical department, from which he was graduated with the M. D. degree in 1895. He then located in Cedar county, where he engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery, continuing there until 1898. In that year he came to Conway, where he has since made his home and in the intervening eleven years he has built up a large practice. In the discharge of his professional duties he is quite successful, for he is very careful in the diagnosis of his cases, studies closely the conditions of his patients and is accurate in the application of his scientific knowledge of specific needs. Since coming to Conway he has taken a post-graduate course and is regarded as one of the best trained and most thoroughly equipped physicians of Taylor county.

Dr. Keplinger was united in marriage in this county on the 6th of September, 1891, to Miss Fannie Alderson, who was born in Cook county, Illinois, and was reared in Taylor county, Iowa. She is a lady of superior educational and social attainments and presides with gracious hospitality over her pleasant home. Unto the doctor and his wife has been born a daughter, Hattie Frances. The parents are active members of the Conway Methodist Episcopal church and Dr. Keplinger belongs also to the Masonic lodge, while he and his wife are both connected with the Eastern Star, Mrs. Keplinger now serving as worthy matron of the chapter. The doctor commenced life for himself as a poor boy and has made his way upward from his youth, meeting the expenses of his different school and college courses with the fruits of his own labor. The elemental strength of his character, which he thus displayed in acquiring an education, has been manifest throughout his entire life, and a laudable ambition has prompted him to do the most efficient work possible for his patrons. He is widely known as a leading physician and a progressive and public-spirited citizen of Taylor county.

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#### JAMES M. GREEN.

James M. Green, one of the leading agriculturists of Holt township, whose farm lies on section 14, was born at Morning Sun, Louisa county, Iowa, October 9, 1862, a son of Edwin and Eleanor (Swan) Green. The father was born in Ohio and came to Iowa about 1856, settling first in Louisa county, where he lived for over twenty years. In 1879, he removed to Holt township, Taylor county, and here made his home until his death, which occurred in 1900. He was a farmer by occupation and a consistent member of the Presbyterian church, by whose precepts he tried to order his life. His wife was also a native of Ohio, but they were married in Iowa. She is still living and makes her home with her



son James M. Green. She attends the services of the Presbyterian church and in that faith reared her seven children. They were: Charles and Benjamin, both deceased; one who died in infancy; Laura, who is the wife of William Stevens, of Grove township, Taylor county; Nancy, deceased, who was the wife of John Armstrong, a resident of this county; Thomas, who is living in Kansas; and James M., the subject of this sketch.

James M. Green spent his boyhood days in Louisa county and in this county, attending the district schools, from which he received a fair English education. After the completion of his own schooling he engaged in teaching others for one year and then was employed on farms for some months. The next fourteen years were spent in mercantile business in Sharpsburg, Taylor county, and three years ago he came to Holt township, to assume the management of the farm which had belonged to his wife's parents and which was known as the Pratt place. It consists of eighty acres on which Mr. Green pursues a general farming and also devotes considerable time to the dairy business, in which he has engaged to some extent. A man of many experiences from which he has derived a creditable amount of success, there can be little doubt that his agricultural undertakings will prosper also and that in time he will be numbered among those who uphold the reputation of his township as a fine farming district.

On the 20th of March, 1889, Mr. Green married Miss Ollie Pratt, who was born in Benton county, Iowa, and is a daughter of Jasper M. and Ursula (Hustings) Pratt. The father has passed away, but Mrs. Pratt is still living and makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. Green. They have one child, Milo L., who is at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Green attend services at Prairie Chapel of the Presbyterian church in Holt township and Mr. Green is now one of its elders. Politically he affiliates with the republican party as his views coincide with the principles expressed in its platform. Although a recent addition to the community, he has already secured the confidence of its citizens, who elected him assessor of Holt township and he is now serving in that position. While he was in business in Sharpsburg he was initiated into the Modern Woodmen of America and still attends the meetings of the camp at that place, for he is a zealous member, deeply concerned for the welfare of his fraternal brothers.

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#### LEONARD W. PERKINS.

Leonard W. Perkins, who carries on general farming on section 11, Gay township, is one of Iowa's native sons and a representative of one of the old pioneer families of the state. He was born in Wayne county, October 23, 1859, his parents being Alexander and Martha Sarah (Moore) Perkins. The father was a native of Indiana, where he was reared, but in early manhood came to Iowa, casting in his lot among the early settlers of Wayne county who were engaged in reclaiming the wild region for the purposes of civilization. Much of



the prairie was still in possession of the government and Mr. Perkins entered a claim and opened up a farm which is still in his possession. His wife was also a native of Indiana and spent her girlhood days in that state. They are now both well advanced in years, Mr. Perkins being about seventy-four years of age, while his wife is but a little younger. At the time of the Civil war Mr. Perkins put aside all business and personal considerations that he might aid the Union in the struggle to maintain the supremacy of the civil government. He joined Company D, of the Twenty-third Iowa Volunteer Infantry and, continuing at the front until the close of hostilities, was then honorably discharged, having made a creditable military record through the loyal aid which he rendered.

The public-school system of Wayne county afforded Leonard W. Perkins the educational privileges which he enjoyed in his boyhood and youth. Through the periods of summer vacations he worked in the fields, assisting his father in carrying on the task of cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate. Practical experience, therefore, well qualified him to take charge of a home of his own when, in 1881, he came to Taylor county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of raw land. With characteristic energy he began breaking the sod and after he had made a start toward developing his farm he returned to Wayne county and completed his arrangements for having a home of his own by his marriage there, on the 17th of September, 1881, to Miss Nancy Sheets. She was born in Wayne county and spent her girlhood days within its borders. Following their marriage the young couple began their domestic life on the farm which is now their home, Mr. Perkins' building there a small dwelling to which he has since added. He also built a barn and carried on the work of improving his farm along various lines. A fine grove on the place was set out by him, together with the orchard, and is now yielding good fruit in season. That the soil is rich and productive is seen in the crops which he annually harvests as the result of the care and labor which he bestows upon the fields. Stock raising, too, is a profitable source of his income, and he makes a specialty of raising and fattening hogs, shipping quite a large number to the market each fall.

Mr. and Mrs. Perkins have become the parents of two sons and four daughters: Samuel, who is married and follows farming in Gay township; Harry, at home; Ellen, the wife of J. N. Phillips, a farmer of Gay township; Mary, Lenore and Edna, all still under the parental roof. The family is widely known in Gay township and the members of the household occupy an enviable position in the social circles in which they move.

Fraternally Mr. Perkins is connected with the Odd Fellows Lodge at Maloy, having joined the order there. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen Camp at Clearfield, Iowa. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party where state and national issues are involved, but otherwise casts an independent ballot. Political office has never had any attraction for him, yet he has served as road supervisor and as a member of the school board for two years. He does not neglect his duties of citizenship but prefers that his public service shall not call him to office. He desires, however, that the best interests of the community shall at all times be furthered, and to this end he lends his aid and cooperation to every movement for the general good. His life has been quietly passed, and yet there are in his record elements



that are well worthy of emulation, for he has sought his success along the legitimate lines of labor, and his efforts have at all times conformed to a high standard of business ethics.

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### J. E. POWELL.

J. E. Powell, busily occupied with the duties of his farm of one hundred and sixty acres situated on section 21, Grant township, is known not only as a progressive farmer and stock-raiser but also as one of the active and influential citizens of his district, where he is now serving as assessor. He was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, December 13, 1855, and was reared in that and Mercer counties, spending his youth largely on farms. He remained with his grandparents until twenty-four years of age and during that period was carefully trained in the work of the fields so that broad experience constituted the foundation for his success when he started out in life on his own account. In 1880, he came to Iowa, settling in Taylor county and for one year engaged in farming in Mason township. He then removed to Conway, where he carried on farming for three years. In 1884 he went to southeastern Nebraska and purchased a farm in the vicinity of Lincoln. Some of this land was broken, and with characteristic energy he began the further cultivation and improvement of the place. His tract originally comprised one hundred and twenty acres, to which he afterward added from time to time, owning one hundred and eighty acres when he decided to leave Nebraska and returned to Iowa. This was in the year 1893. He then sold his property in that state and in Taylor county purchased the farm upon which he now resides, taking up his abode on this place in the spring of 1894. During the past fifteen years he has devoted his energies continuously to its cultivation and improvement and has erected thereon a neat and attractive residence and a large barn. He has also set out an orchard, has a nice grove and a neat lawn. After farming here for three seasons, however, he removed to Conway, where he established a hardware business, while later he represented the commercial interests of the town as a general merchant. Her carried on business there as proprietor or a clerk for about nine years but is now giving his attention to general agricultural pursuits, and in connection with the tilling of the soil he raises, feeds and ships stock. He is an excellent judge of domestic animals and handles stock of good grades for which he finds a ready market.

In September, 1883, in Bedford, Mr. Powell was united in marriage to Miss Mary Chiles, a native of Texas, who spent the greater part of her girlhood in Illinois and Iowa. There are two children, Claud F., a young man who holds a position in the Cooper Bank at Conway; and George Guy, who aids in the operation of the home farm. They also had one daughter, Delphia, who died when four months old.

In his political views Mr. Powell is a democrat and has supported the party since casting his first presidential ballot for Grover Cleveland. In Conway, he served as assessor for six years and is now serving for the second term as assessor of Grant township, having been the incumbent in the office already for



four years. He discharges his duties in a prompt, systematic and capable manner so that his official record is thoroughly commendable. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, while Mr. Powell belongs to the Masonic fraternity, in which he has taken the degrees of the lodge, chapter and commandery. His name is likewise on the membership rolls of Conway Lodge, I. O. O. F., in which he has filled all of the chairs and is a past grand. He joined the order in Illinois, filled all of the offices in the lodge to which he belonged in that state, was honored with equal official preferment when in Nebraska and again in Conway, and in all three states has been a representative from the local lodge to the grand lodge. He is well known in Bedford, Lenox, Clearfield and other points in Taylor county, and his record as a business man and an official indicates his tried integrity and worth and has constituted the basis of the confidence and esteem entertained for him throughout the community.

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#### GEORGE THOMAS IRWIN.

George Thomas Irwin, who owns and operates a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Washington township and is meeting with gratifying success in his agricultural pursuits, is a native of Taylor county, his birth here occurring on the 9th of September, 1872. His father, Thomas Irwin, was a farmer by occupation and passed from this life at the extreme old age, of one hundred and ten years. The mother, who still resides on the old farm in Holt township, was one of three children born unto her parents, the others being Nobel and Eliza Harrigan. By her marriage to Mr. Irwin she became the mother of seven children, the brothers and sisters of our subject being: William, James, Robert, Susie, Ida and Jane.

Reared amid the scenes and environments of rural life, George Thomas Irwin attended the public school at Holt Center until eighteen years of age, and during that time, when not engaged with his text-books, he assisted his father in the work of the farm, early becoming familiar with the tasks that fall to the country lad. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-one years of age, and then he engaged in agricultural pursuits on his own account, renting a farm which he operated for two years. At the expiration of that period he became identified with the meat business, becoming the proprietor of a market which he conducted for twelve years. This venture proved a profitable one, his good business management bringing to him a gratifying measure of prosperity, and during this time he was the owner of several different farms. Subsequent to his withdrawal from the meat business, however, he purchased his present farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Washington township and has since directed his attention to the occupation of farming. His fields have been brought under a high state of cultivation and the atmosphere of neatness and prosperity which surrounds the place is indicative of the thrift and enterprise of its owner. Mr. Irwin, in connection with general farming, is also interested in Live stock, raising sheep, hogs, cattle and horses, and he enjoys a substantial annual income from the fact that both branches of his business are



proving most profitable. He has placed many improvements upon his farm, rebuilding the barn and erecting a very comfortable and attractive residence, and the place is now one of the desirable farming properties of Washington township.

It was on the 22d of February, 1902, that Mr. Irwin was united in marriage to Miss Cecelia Agnes Marlow, a daughter of Henry and Kate (McInerney) Marlow, who is one of eight children born unto her parents, the other members of her family being: Alice, Elizabeth, Theresa, Henrietta, Peter, Herbert and Mary, of whom the two last named are now deceased.

Although not an office-seeker, Mr. Irwin takes a deep interest in all matters pertaining to civic virtue and civic pride. Fraternally he is a third degree Mason, holding membership in the blue lodge, while he is likewise connected with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen, and is a valued and respected member thereof. He has been successful in his various enterprises, but he has sought his success along the line of earnest and honorable labor, his business integrity remaining at all times unquestioned, while the methods which he has ever employed have won for him the confidence, respect and good will of his fellowmen.

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### JOHN ANDERSON.

Among the prominent and representative citizens of Clearfield whose activity in business lines is bringing to them a substantial degree of prosperity, is John Anderson, who for about sixteen years has been the proprietor of a successful lumber business, dating his residence in this city since 1893. He claims Sweden as the place of his nativity, his birth there occurring at Nasum, in the province of Christianstadt, on the 13th of September, 1862, his parents being Anders Thomasson and Bengta Pearson. He spent the period of his boyhood and youth in his native land and in 1878, when sixteen years of age, came to the new world, locating on a farm in Warren county, Illinois. His education, which had been begun across the water, was continued in the schools of Illinois and he afterward benefited by a course of study in the Davenport Business College, of Davenport, Iowa, becoming thus well equipped for the practical and responsible duties of business life.

After laying aside his text-books Mr. Anderson carried on agricultural pursuits on a farm in Illinois for some time and then became identified with lumber and grain interests, learning the lumber business in Alexis, Illinois. The year 1893 witnessed his arrival in Clearfield, Iowa, where he bought out J. P. Rumble & Son, in an established lumber business in partnership with C. W. Edwards. He has a large yard and carries an extensive and complete stock of various kinds of lumber and building materials. He was most successful from the start and during his long connection with business interests in this city he has built up an excellent trade which has already reached extensive proportions and is constantly increasing in volume. He has carefully studied the demands of the trade and keeps in close touch with the lumber market, so that he has been able to make wise purchases and profitable sales. His keen business sagacity and good judg-



ment, too, have been salient characteristics in his present prosperity, and he is numbered among the progressive and successful business men of Grant township.

It was on the 29th of August, 1906, that Mr. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Belle M. Franklin, who was born and reared in Taylor county. Her father, W. H. Franklin, was one of the early settlers and a prominent farmer of Grant township. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Anderson was born one son, Franklin John, who is the life and light of the household.

The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which Mr. Anderson is serving as a trustee. Mr. Anderson is stalwart in his support of the principles of the republican party, and although he has served as a member of the town council, he has never sought nor desired public office as a reward for party fealty. Upon arriving in Clearfield he purchased the property where they now reside. He rebuilt and remodeled the dwelling and now owns a modern and attractive home, which is a favorite resort with many friends by reason of its warm-hearted and generous hospitality. Mr. Anderson is a man of exemplary habits, of strict integrity and true worth of character, and his prosperity has been so honorably won that not even the most envious could grudge him his success. He also ranks among Clearfield's most public-spirited and loyal citizens, his influence ever being upon the side of progress, reform and advancement.

# HISTORICAL INDEX

---

Historical sketch of the state.....	7	Tax levies for 1908 .....	133
Original inhabitants .....	11	County elections .....	135
Disposition of Iowa land for public pur- poses .....	11	County schools .....	141
Sixty-two years of state.....	12	Railroads, telegraph, telephone, etc....	142
Organization of Iowa counties.....	15	Legal history .....	143
Surveying Taylor county.....	16	Townships and towns .....	154
Locating and naming the county.....	19	Jackson township .....	155
Organization of the county.....	19	Benton township .....	157
Organization of the townships.....	22	Polk township .....	158
First land entries .....	25	Holt township .....	163
Statement of Adam Binnedge.....	27	Platte township .....	166
Surface features and drainage.....	28	Mason township .....	168
Swamp lands .....	31	Grant township .....	169
Early records .....	43	Clayton township .....	171
First marriage record .....	43	Dallas township .....	174
First deed of record.....	43	Ross township .....	177
Second deed of record.....	44	Gay township .....	181
Quitclaim deed .....	45	Nodaway township .....	183
First mortgage of real estate.....	45	Grove township .....	184
First chattel mortgage.....	47	Washington township .....	185
The ordination of John Lambert.....	48	Jefferson township .....	186
Location of county seat.....	48	New market .....	189
Resources, agricultural and horticultural	50	Gravity .....	193
Agricultural society .....	57	Blockton .....	198
The Civil war .....	71	Clearfield .....	203
Spanish-American war .....	93	Athelstan .....	209
Courthouse .....	103	Lenox .....	209
County jail .....	114	Conway .....	216
Poor farm .....	115	Sharpsburg .....	219
County officers, 1908-1909.....	119	Bedford .....	220
Financial report, 1908 .....	119	Old settlers' reminiscences, extracts from newspapers, etc. ....	237





# BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX

---

Akey, G. R.....	265	Coulthard, H. D.....	607
Allen, Harry .....	676	Coulthard, Henry .....	594
Anderson, J. E.....	258	Coulthard, R. H.....	558
Anderson, John .....	693	Cree, D. R.....	302
Avey, J. A.....	282	Crosson, F. E.....	278
Baker, R. B.....	430	Crouch, F. E.....	456
Beach, G. S.....	644	Crum, H. A.....	437
Beard, F. P.....	473	Crum, W. E.....	363
Beard, L. E.....	560	Cummings, Leonard .....	681
Beauchamp, J. W.....	452	Curphey, J. T.....	335
Becherer, Charles .....	656	Daugherty, J. H.....	384
Beck, J. W.....	385	Davidson, G. A.....	443
Beggs, T. M.....	301	Davis, G. W.....	444
Bennett, T. W.....	593	Davis, T. J.....	348
Black, G. W.....	468	Derrickson, Elmer .....	416
Blakemore, F. L.....	528	Dorr, W. L.....	630
Boltinghouse, L. C.....	591	Doubet, Joseph .....	606
Bordner, Alfred .....	350	Douglass, J. D.....	290
Bowers, E. L.....	406	Dowell, J. B.....	287
Brand, G. R.....	685	Dresher, C. F.....	637
Brand, S. W.....	582	Dresher, C. O.....	429
Brant, M. R.....	583	Duckett, G. H.....	506
Brice, A. C.....	339	Dugan, George .....	378
Bristow, S. N.....	321	Dunlap, J. T.....	646
Brown, B. F.....	530	Dunning, Frank .....	243
Brown, C. E.....	349	Dunning, O. M.....	661
Brown, O. G.....	516	Ely, C. W.....	578
Brown, O. M.....	503	Ely, James .....	494
Brown, Walter .....	461	Engstrom, C. J.....	448
Buchanan, T. C.....	569	Evans, A. P.....	567
Burnham, W. C.....	424	Evans, W. F.....	253
Burrell, R. T.....	359	Farnham, W. R.....	570
Burt, M. L.....	643	Ferguson, T. A.....	401
Burwell, E. M.....	520	Fleming, W. C.....	334
Cameron, J. E.....	391	Flick, J. P.....	372
Campbell, Lock .....	541	Ford, D. F.....	610
Carr, H. L.....	633	Fossett, James .....	542
Carter, D. L.....	668	Fowler, J. W.....	590
Carter, J. T.....	650	Freeland, J. N.....	684
Chaney, Green .....	526	Fuller, K. L.....	310
Christianson, J. F.....	620	Garrett, Jacob .....	673
Clarey, Thomas .....	451	George, W. W.....	552
Clark, David .....	480	Glassgow, G. W.....	597
Clayton, D. E.....	612	Glassgow, M. R.....	577
Cobb, William .....	380	Goble, J. D.....	672
Cochran, A. H.....	272	Gordon, A. L.....	621
Combs, Lloyd .....	442	Green, J. M.....	688
Connor, Frank .....	571	Hamblin, A. A.....	555
Cooper, J. R.....	337		
Cooper, Joseph .....	655		



Hamblin, Dennis .....	482	McKenzie, Alexander .....	286
Hamblin, H. K. ....	546	McKinley, G. S. ....	389
Hamilton, Andrew .....	341	McMaster, George .....	327
Hamilton, F. M. ....	297	McMaster, J. C. ....	572
Hamilton, J. M. ....	463	McMaster, W. D. ....	255
Hanshaw, J. S. ....	491	Mahaffey, F. C. ....	596
Harris, Edgar .....	618	Mahaffey, L. A. ....	671
Harvey, R. W. ....	316	Mathews, G. H. ....	519
Hawkins, F. M. ....	476	Miller, D. W. ....	365
Hemenover, Loey .....	252	Miller, Frederick .....	436
Henderson, R. S. ....	495	Miller, Marcellus .....	674
Hensley, Howard .....	634	Mohler, C. C. ....	342
Hickenlooper, S. B. ....	624	Moore, J. D. ....	585
Hill, John .....	538	Mothershead, J. L. ....	496
Hogg, W. D. ....	616	Nash, O. S. ....	275
Hook, G. W. ....	449	Noble, F. L. ....	279
Hopson, S. J. ....	649	O'Connell, J. J. ....	565
Hough, G. W. ....	608	Osborn, E. B. ....	683
Hughes, D. C. ....	413	Osborn, J. H. ....	399
Hunter, C. H. ....	311	Overmire, S. B. ....	631
Hunter, F. U. ....	556	Owens, M. C. ....	325
Hunter, Paul .....	426	Oxford, W. E. ....	557
Irwin, G. T. ....	692	Pace, M. V. ....	355
Jackson, W. M. ....	492	Page, G. W. ....	427
Jacoby, J. L. ....	361	Paschal, C. M. ....	534
Jaqua, H. P. ....	604	Paul, J. W. ....	464
John, Alexander .....	554	Paxton, D. B. ....	648
Johnson, F. G. ....	404	Payton, S. L. ....	308
Johnston, E. J. ....	525	Payton, W. H. ....	417
Johnston, H. H. ....	323	Perkins, L. W. ....	689
Jones, C. S. ....	686	Pfander, W. H. ....	605
Kauble, B. F. ....	375	Pierce, Elvon .....	441
Keenan, J. P. ....	642	Poor, J. H. ....	356
Keplinger, T. B. ....	687	Powell, J. E. ....	691
Key, Samuel J. ....	266	Pullen, A. E. ....	518
King, A. E. ....	502	Putnam, H. H. ....	500
King, W. E. ....	288	Quick, R. C. ....	563
Knox, J. J. ....	508	Raynor, H. A. W. ....	387
Lake, A. E. ....	410	Reece, George .....	514
Lake, W. H. ....	256	Reed, G. N. ....	531
Landen, W. H. ....	623	Reed, J. C. F. ....	527
Larison, J. I. ....	353	Reid, George .....	411
Leach, C. H. ....	680	Risser, Senator .....	324
Lee, F. O. ....	566	Rogers, F. J. ....	647
Lee, Riley .....	553	Rowe, E. S., Jr. ....	479
Leonard, Arthur .....	584	Rowe, E. S., Sr. ....	475
Leonard, Daniel .....	392	Russell, H. K. ....	425
Leonard, E. S. ....	617	Rutledge, William .....	368
Leonard, Guy .....	517	Sage, C. W. ....	280
Leonard, William .....	257	Sanford, Alonzo .....	374
Lester, K. C. ....	388	Scott, N. C. ....	515
Lewis, F. N. ....	664	Sharp, W. G. ....	619
Litteer, A. J. ....	466	Shaw, J. T. ....	330
Livingston, Richard .....	544	Sheley, Silas .....	402
Lomax, J. A. ....	352	Shepherd, J. B. ....	438
Long, H. M. ....	488	Sickels, H. W. ....	505
Long, H. P. ....	432	Skinner, Joseph .....	338
Longfellow, C. E. ....	262	Snyder, J. H. ....	598
Longwell, H. H. ....	539	Soper, R. W. ....	559
Lucas, R. V. ....	328	Sowers, A. J. ....	263
Luton, Edward .....	581	Spencer, L. W. ....	291
McAlpin, G. R. ....	670	Standley, J. P. ....	248
McCain, A. R. ....	292	Stickelman, J. M. ....	454
McCormick, Elisha .....	299	Straight, E. G. ....	409
McCoun, L. T. ....	312	Straight, H. S. ....	586
McDonald, James .....	532	Swaim, Emily J. ....	418

Terrill, Asa .....	489	Weeks, Joel .....	477
Terrill, J. S.....	545	Wentzel, S. J.....	638
Townsend, W. J. W.....	679	West, A. T.....	521
Utter, Kendrick .....	522	Wildman, W. R.....	255
Wainwright, S. E.....	307	Wildman, William .....	580
Walker, J. W.....	366	Willits, L. P.....	414
Walkup, J. F.....	589	Wilson, B. F.....	658
Walter, Henri .....	314	Wilson, L. B.....	470
Walter, J. J.....	405	Wilt, E. U. S. G.....	669
Webb, F. B.....	304	Wilt, Harry .....	431
Webb, H. C.....	440	Wise, J. E.....	660
Webb, I. E.....	277	Woodfill, D. M.....	268
Webb, S. P.....	609	Wright, W. L.....	367
		Wysong, C. B.....	377



1951

















